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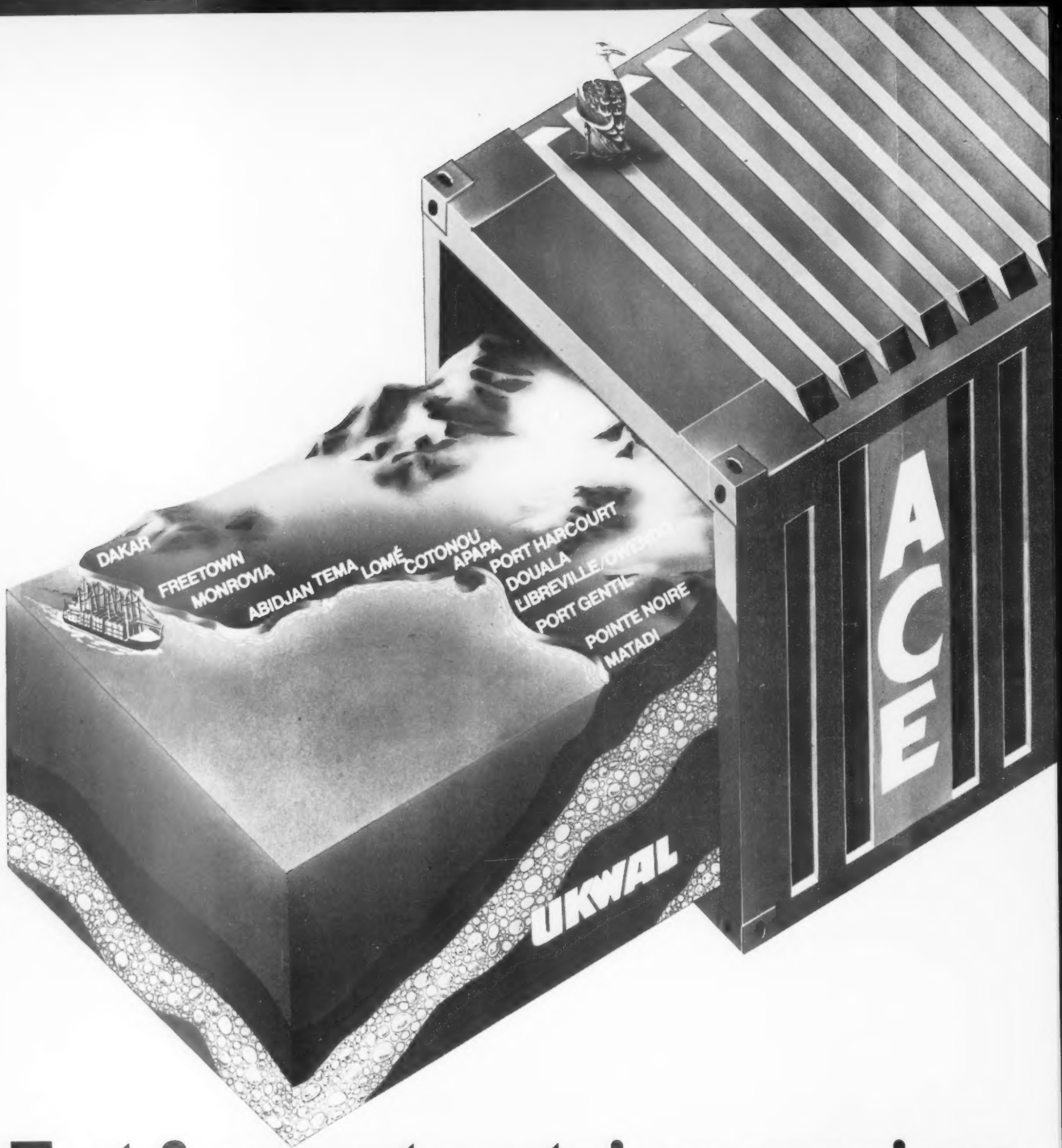

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Trade and Industry

1 June 1979

Weekly news magazine of the Departments of Industry and Trade

Britain goes to the poll on 7 June to elect members to the European parliament. Our report explains the extent of the parliament's powers and the implications of the first direct elections (page 380).

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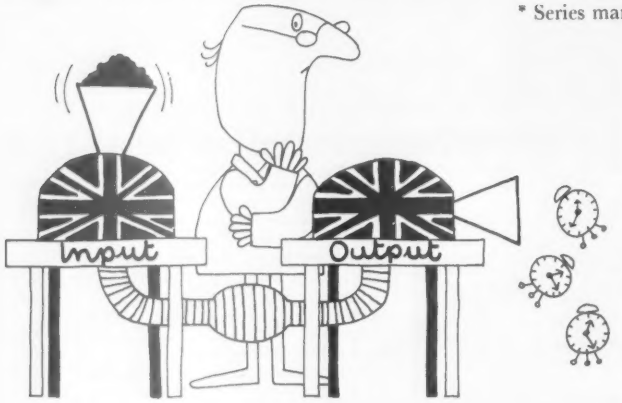
The address of the advertisement department will remain unchanged.

Economic indicators at a glance

* Series marked with an asterisk are not seasonally adjusted.



Output

Gross domestic product. The preliminary estimate of gdp, based on output data, for Q1 1979 is 107.3 (at constant prices, with 1975 = 100, and seasonally adjusted). This is around 1 per cent lower than in Q4 1978, largely as a result of adverse weather conditions and industrial disputes, especially in the road haulage industry. These factors particularly affected the output of the construction, manufacturing and transport industries and the distributive trades.

Index of industrial production. Provisional estimates suggest that industrial output continued to recover in March to 111.5 from the depressed level caused by adverse weather conditions and transport disputes in January when the figure was 102.6. The extent of the recovery is difficult to judge because estimates for the first quarter of 1979 are less reliable than usual.

Consumers' expenditure

Consumers' expenditure, on the second preliminary estimate, rose by about 1 per cent in 1979 Q1 despite a 1½ per cent fall in retail sales. The rise was mainly due to a substantial increase in expenditure on fuel and light and an increase in expenditure on motor vehicles both of which are not covered by the retail sales index. In the latest two quarters, expenditure rose by 1 per cent though it was 4½ per cent higher than a year earlier.

Retail sales. The volume of retail sales, on the provisional estimate, rose strongly in April representing, perhaps, some making good after the low level of sales in the first quarter.

Prices and costs

Wholesale price index* (provisional) for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose sharply by 2¾ per cent in April reflecting the sharp increase in crude oil prices. In the latest three months the index rose by 3¾ per cent and was 8¾ per cent higher than a year earlier. (The index was falling in the latter half of 1977 and in early 1978.) The index for wholesale output prices rose by 1¼ per cent in April, with higher prices for petroleum products. In the latest three months the index rose by 3 per cent and was 9 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Retail prices index* with the seasonal increases in domestic rates, rents and water rates, rose by 1¾ per cent in April. The year-on-year increase in the index continued to edge up from 9.8 per cent last month to 10.1 per cent in April.

Terms of trade. During 1978, export prices rose much faster than those of imports and the terms of trade index rose by almost 4½ per cent between the fourth quarters of 1977 and 1978.

UK competitiveness, measured by normalised unit labour costs, was worse in the first three quarters of 1978 than in the previous year. Much of the improvement experienced during 1976 when sterling was falling has now been eroded.

Investment

Manufacturing industry's volume of fixed investment fell by 4 per cent in 1979 Q1. First quarter figures have dipped for the last few years, interrupting the otherwise steady rise from the trough at the beginning of 1976. In the latest two quarters taken together, the volume was virtually unchanged.

Distributive and service industries' volume of fixed investment (excluding shipping) rose by about 3 per cent in 1979 Q1.

The DoI investment intentions survey carried out in November/December confirms the results of previous surveys which indicated a further increase in 1979 in the volume of investment by both the manufacturing industries and the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping). For manufacturing industries, a rise of 4 to 8 per cent in 1979 is suggested by the present survey, with increases in most industry groups and especially in the textiles, leather and clothing group. Investment by manufacturing as a whole in 1980 may be slightly less than in 1979. In 1979 and probably in 1980 investment excluding the iron and steel industries is likely to change in line with the total. For the distributive and service industries, a rise of 3 to 7 per cent is expected in 1979 with a similar rise in 1980.

Incomes

Real personal disposable income (RPDI) rose by 1½ per cent in 1978 Q4 giving a large increase of 6½ per cent in 1978 as a whole. The rise in 1978 followed falls in the previous three years.

Average gross earnings.* Average gross earnings (new series) fell back a little in March but when the distorting effects of back-pay are removed there was a further rise from 13½ per cent in February to 14¼ per cent in March. The latest figures still suggest that earnings have been increasing in this pay round at much the same rate as last year.

Labour

Unemployment (UK, excluding school leavers) fell by 20 700 during May to 1 307 000 (5.4 per cent of all employees). There has been a fall of 13 000 in the level since December thus continuing, albeit at a more gentle pace, the fall that began early in 1978.

Unfilled vacancies (mainly for adults) notified to employment offices rose by 12 000 to 257 000 in May, and in the latest three months were 23 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Companies

Gross trading profits of industrial and commercial companies, excluding those engaged in North Sea oil and gas activities and net of stock appreciation, rose by 14 per cent in 1978, much less than in 1977.

Liquidity of the (large) industrial and commercial companies replying to the DoI's company liquidity survey, having fallen appreciably since 1978 Q2, was still 5½ per cent higher at the end of 1978 than a year earlier. For manufacturing companies alone, the level of liquidity at the end of 1978 was about the same as a year earlier, still high by past standards.

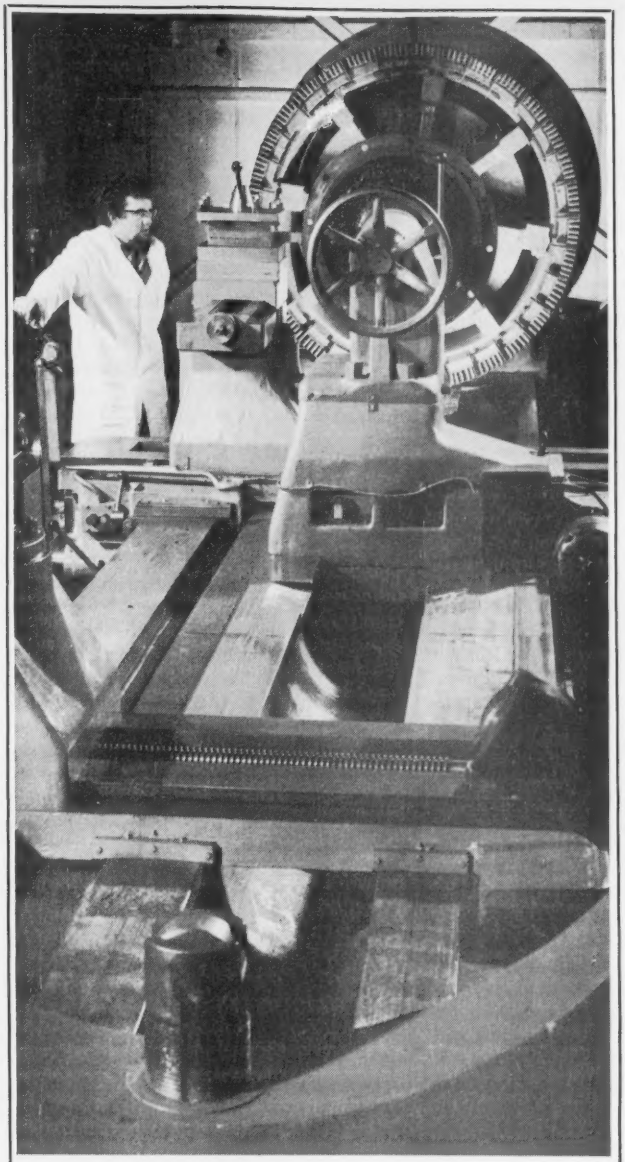
Net borrowing requirement of industrial and commercial companies' was much the same in 1978 as in 1977.

Balance of payments

Current account of the balance of payments was in surplus by £398 million in 1978 Q4 and by £254 million in 1978 as a whole, slightly less than in 1977. The deficit on visible trade was £1,175 million in 1978 while the surplus on invisibles was £1,429 million, both figures much smaller than the corresponding ones for 1977. It is estimated that the current account was in balance in January

UK official reserves* fell by $480 million during April. The fall was more than accounted for by an early repayment to the International Monetary Fund by the government of $1,004 million plus a scheduled repayment of $81 million in respect of drawings on the IMF's oil facility.

Volume of imports and exports fell sharply in January as a result of the road haulage dis-



Electrical engineer Harold F. Ward, Birmingham, has speeded turn-round of sizeable motors requiring mechanical repairs by nearly doubling previous capacity with a newly installed lathe for machining up to 6 ft diameter components. Electrical and mechanical repair services are provided round-the-clock by the company, which is a member of the Deritend Group. Picture shows finish machining the bearing journal of a 5 ft diameter rotor from a 500 hp, 720 rpm, 1200 V slip-ring motor after reclaiming by metal spraying. The rotor and stator of the motor which drives a mixer at a west midlands rubber mill also required overhauling and slip-rings machined.

pute. The trade figures for the five months to January were distorted by the effects of industrial disputes. Therefore, although the figures show that exports and imports fell by 3½ per cent and 2½ per cent respectively in the three months to January it is judged that the underlying trend in both cases remained upward. (The February and March trade figures are not yet available).

DoT's survey of short-term export prospects, based on replies received from 54 large exporting companies, suggests that the volume of UK exports will increase by 3 to 4 per cent in the first half of 1979 following a similar rise in the second half of 1978. Growth may continue at a similar rate in the third quarter. Respondents are expecting a somewhat faster rate of growth in their export prices during 1979 compared with last year. (The survey was conducted largely during January and February but it is likely that the effects of the industrial disputes are not fully reflected in the forecasts.)

Exchange rate

Effective sterling exchange* rate index rose during the week to 67.1 by the close on Wednesday, 23 May (December 1971 = 100).

Exchange rates

The bank note rates of exchange in London on 25 May are given below. Supplied by Thomas Cook Bankers Ltd, the rates are intended as a guide only and are subject to fluctuation. OECD countries are shown in bold.

		You buy at	You sell at
Afghanistan	Afghani	120	160
Andorra	(See France/ Spain)	—	—
Antigua	E. Caribbean dollar	5.40	5.60
Argentina	Peso	2 500	2 800
Australia	**Dollar**	**1.85**	**1.91**
Austria	**Schilling**	**28.50**	**30.50**
Bahamas	Dollar	2.05	2.20
Bahrain	Dinar	0.80	0.835
Barbados	Dollar	3.98	4.31
Belgium	**Franc**	**64.50**	**68.00**
Belize	Dollar	4.20	4.77
Benin	CFA	455	475
Bermuda	Dollar	2.00	2.14
Bolivia	Peso	55	47
Botswana	Pula	2.00	2.30
Brazil	Cruzeiro	56	66
Brunei	Dollar	4.60	4.80
Cameroon	CFA	455	475
Canada	**Dollar**	**2.3475**	**2.4175**
Chile	Peso	74	85
China	Ranimbi Yuan	Refer	Refer
Colombia	Peso	78	92
Costa Rica	Colon	22.50	19
Cyprus	Pound	0.7125	0.7525
Denmark	**Krone**	**11.04**	**11.54**
Dominica	E. Caribbean dollar	5.40	5.60
Ecuador	Sucre	57	68
Egypt	Pound	1.58	1.70
Eire	**Pound**	**1.025**	**1.065**
Fiji	Dollar	1.76	1.84
Finland	**Markka**	**8.14**	**8.49**
France	**Franc**	**8.96**	**9.36**
Germany, FR of	**Deutschmark**	**3.88**	**4.10**
Gibraltar	Pound	1.00	1.05
Greece	**Drachma**	**74**	**79**
Grenada	E. Caribbean dollar	5.40	5.60
Guyana	Dollar	9.25	Refer
Hong Kong	Dollar	10.12	10.55
Iceland	**Krona**	**768**	**798**
Indonesia	Rupiah	1 300	1 550
Iran	Rial	195	Refer
Iraq	Dinar	0.76	0.82
Israel	Pound	44	50
Italy (20 000 and smaller)	**Lira**	**1 720**	**1 805**
Japan	**Yen**	**450**	**475**
Jordan	Dinar	0.625	0.665
Korea	Won	1 250	1 550
Kuwait	Dinar	0.58	0.61
Lebanon	Livre	6.70	7.20
Liberia (see USA)		—	—
Libya	Dinar	1.05	1.35
Luxembourg (see Belgium)	**Franc**	**64.50**	**68.00**
Madeira (see Portugal)	Escudo	—	—
Malaysia	Dollar	4.64	4.86
Malta	Pound	0.73	0.76
Mauritius	Rupee	11.88	13.75
Mexico	Peso	44	52
Monaco (see France)	Franc	—	—
Netherlands	**Guilder**	**4.23**	**4.44**
New Zealand	**Dollar**	**1.92**	**2.01**
Nigeria	Naira	2.30	Refer
Norway	**Krone**	**10.52**	**10.97**
Oman	Rial	0.72	0.765
Pakistan	Rupee	21	29
Peru	Sol.	440	540
Philippines	Piso	15	18
Portugal	**Escudo**	**97.50**	**102.50**
Qatar	Rial	7.80	8.15
Saudi Abrabia	Rial	7.00	7.36
Seychelles	Rupee	12.77	13.25
Sierra Leone	Leone	2.25	2.50
Singapore	Dollar	4.48	4.67
South Africa	Rand	2.05	2.25
Spain	**Peseta**	**132.25**	**139.25**
Sweden	**Krona**	**8.90**	**9.30**
Switzerland	**Franc**	**3.51**	**3.73**
Syria	Pound	8.80	9.90
Taiwan	Dollar	90	101
Thailand	Baht	39	46
Trinidad and Tobago	Dollar	5.30	6.40
Turkey	**Lira**	**85**	**89**
Uganda	Shilling	Refer	Refer
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	7.98	8.33
USA	**Dollar**	**2.0475**	**2.1075**
Venezuela	Bolivar	8.80	9.70
Yemen Arab Republic	Rial	13	16
Yugoslavia	Dinar	40.50	42.50
Zambia	Kwacha	6.00	Refer

Where more than one rate applies to a currency, the rate given is that for small denomination notes.

Finance

Public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) fell to £2.6 billion in the fourth quarter of the financial year 1978-79. The PSBR for the full financial year amounted to £9.2 billion.

Domestic credit expansion was fairly large in April at £0.8 billion. The central government borrowing requirement was exceptionally large and though sales of government debt – including part payments on stocks issued in the previous month – were quite substantial, they were not enough to offset this entirely. Bank lending to the private sector continued at a high rate but was lower than in recent months.

Sterling M3 rose by £0.7 billion (1½ per cent) a little less than DCE despite a further large rise in the reserves. In the six months since mid-October £M3 has risen by about 6¼ per cent (12¾ per cent at an annual rate). The increase during the year from mid-April 1978 to mid-April 1979 (before applying seasonal adjustments) was about 10½ per cent.

Bank of England minimum lending rate (MLR) – 12 per cent, effective from 5 April.

More information

For a backrun of figures for some of these indicators see 'The economy: selected indicators', page 394. Inquiries on any of these indicators should be addressed to Economics and Statistics Division 4B, Departments of Industry and Trade, Room 173, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 3453.

Home news

Price increase notification ends

An order revoking the need for large enterprises to give the Price Commission 28 days' notice of proposals to put up prices came into effect on 24 May.

After signing the order, Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, said that its effect would be to relieve industry of a substantial burden, but at the same time, the consumer should be no worse off since it was the government's belief that prices were best contained by increasing competition.

'The prices policy inherited from the previous administration has had a negligible effect on the rate of inflation, but at the same time it has imposed intolerable restrictions on individual firms', said Mrs Oppenheim.

Prices and Charges (Notification of Increases) (Revocation) Order 1979 will shortly be available from HMSO.

Consumer legislation depends on balance – Oppenheim

Competition and consumer preference have had more effect on holding down prices and stimulating high retailing standards than price controls and government direction.

Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, made this point when speaking to an Industrial Society seminar on 'Retailing today – consumer legislation'.

Mrs Oppenheim said that the government's whole approach to consumer legislation depended on balances. First, she said, was the balance between the consumer and the trader. Competition depended on the consumer exercising a free choice in the full knowledge of all relevant information. The principle of legislation should be to help the shopper to make sensible decisions by providing information and by ensuring that the information was not misleading.

Industry, she continued, must not be overburdened with so much regulation that it was distracted from giving good service. 'The more we legislate, the more likely small businesses are to throw up their hands and say "It is not worth my while to go on". The loss of those small shops will lead to a reduction in competition and the consumer will suffer.'

The second balance, Mrs Oppenheim said, was between imposing burdens on reputable traders and restricting their not so scrupulous competitors. Voluntary ways such as codes of practice would go a long way towards eradicating malpractices and raising standards. But as the 'rogues' did not subscribe to them they were not bound by them and legislation to deal with them became inevitable.

The third balance was between the powerful and the not so powerful traders in terms of commercial strength. 'Our proposals for strengthening the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will go further to attack anti-competitive practices and to ensure the proper operation of the market', she said.

Mrs Oppenheim referred to the need for clarity in laws affecting retailers. 'I well appreciate that some of our regulations are written in highly complex legal language and that retailers are concerned that they might inadvertently be infringing the law. I would hope that there may be scope for reducing uncertainty', she said.

Heavy lorries inquiry announced

There is to be an independent inquiry into heavy lorries and the ways in which they affect the environment.

In answer to a parliamentary question on 22 May, Minister of Transport Norman Fowler explained that he had decided to proceed with an independent inquiry to consider the cause and consequences of the growth in the movement of freight by road and, in particular, of the impact of the lorry on people and their environment; and to report on how best to ensure that future developments serve the public interest. He said he would announce the form of the inquiry and its membership as soon as possible.

The government recognised, he said, the concern about heavy lorries. But they carried about two-thirds of Britain's freight traffic and were of great importance to the economy. 'We need to see how the public interest is best served, taking account of economic benefits, the efficiency of road freight transport, and the damage and disruption which lorries can cause. In particular, the inquiry must face squarely the issue of whether there should be any change in the present limits on maximum weight.'

He pointed out that people and organisations would be able to put their views to the inquiry, but he would be concerned to see that it was not unduly protracted.

Do-it-yourself boat

The 11.27 metre 'Illusive Continental' – one of the largest craft produced for the do-it-yourself enthusiast – is put through its paces on the Norfolk Broads. Built by Dawn Craft (Wroxham), Norfolk, it is one of three craft ranging from a standard cruiser to a version featuring a flybridge and dual control positions. The range, including six-berth and eight-berth versions, is available in do-it-yourself kit form or as fully fitted craft. The kit contains the hull, superstructure and all structural fittings.

Hamish Gray visits Glasgow and Shetlands

Minister of State for Energy, Hamish Gray, visited Glasgow and the Shetlands on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week. This was Mr Gray's first official visit since his appointment.

On Wednesday, Mr Gray visited the Offshore Supplies Office in Glasgow to meet the director general and other members of the office.

On Thursday, he visited the Shetlands as a guest of the British National Oil Corporation. Following lunch with the corporation in Lerwick he attended a meeting of its board at County Buildings, Lerwick. He also attended a dinner in Lerwick as a guest of the board

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So be a sensible chap and make full use of me. After all, I'm here to help you."

We're here to help you.

when he met representatives of the local community.

On Friday morning, Mr Gray toured the Sullom Voe terminal and construction villages.

Quota scheme for disabled

Key questions concerning the government's future role in helping disabled people to find and keep work are raised in a discussion document published on 22 May by the Manpower Services Commission.

The document, prepared by the employment services division of MSC, reviews the existing statutory quota scheme for employing disabled people, identifies some weaknesses in the way it operates and puts forward a number of alternative proposals for consideration.

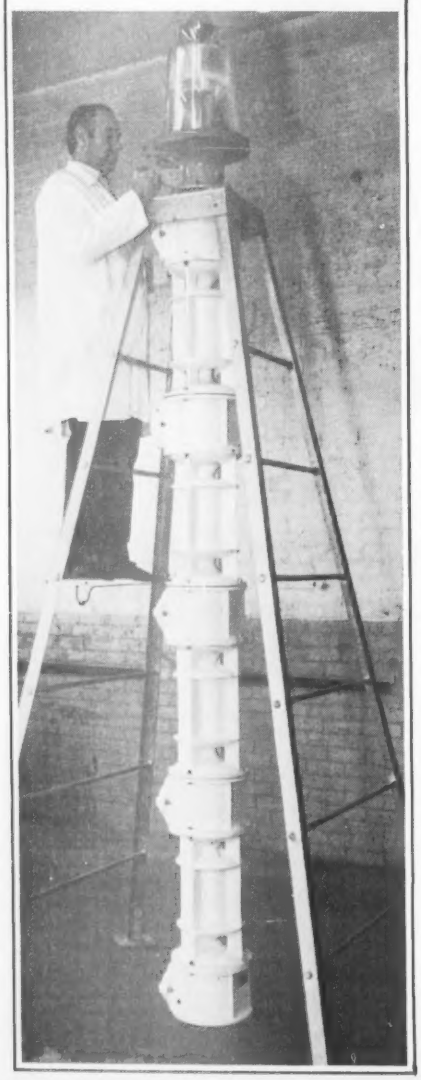
Comments invited

The purpose of the discussion document is to seek the comments of all interested parties on the various options considered. The document is being issued to a wide range of relevant organisations and individuals.

Closing date for comments is 26 October 1979 and they should be addressed to: Specialist Employment and Resettlement Branch, (ESG4 – quota), MSC, Employment Service Division, 213 Oxford Street, London W1R 2ES. Additional copies of the discussion document can also be obtained from the above address (tel. 01-439 8601 ext. 32).

Navigation aids fitted to small offshore oil structures

A check on the assembling of an offshore oil light and sound signal unit being carried out at the Brentford Works of AGA Navigation Aids Ltd. This is typical of units used to mark the smaller single mooring buoys and temporary structures in the offshore oil industry. These structures can carry a 10-mile range light, 2-mile range sound signal and a Racon radar responder beacon, all signalling the locally approved code for an oil structure.



Revised marine survey on passenger ships published

A revised version of 'Survey of passenger ships – instructions for the guidance of surveyors' was published on 22 May.

The instructions indicate to ship owners, ship builders and others the procedure followed by the Department of Trade for the survey of passenger ships as well as the conditions under which passenger and safety certificates and passenger certificates are issued.

The publication supercedes previous instructions issued in 1961. It is issued by the Marine Division, Department of Trade and published by HMSO in three volumes £3.25, £3.00 and £2.00.

Energy-saving in heavy clay and refractories industries: seminar

'Energy-saving in the heavy clay and refractories industries' is the title of a one-day seminar to be held at Sheffield City Polytechnic on Wednesday, 13 June. It is one of a series being organised as part of the Department of Industry's campaign to encourage the better use of energy in manufacturing industry.

Findings of the industrial energy thrift scheme (IETS) as applied to these industries were discussed at a seminar in December 1977. Since then IETS and energy audit series (EAS) reports have been published[1] and considerable interest and activity have been initiated at company level in the energy field. The seminar is being held to inform industry of the latest developments and to provide an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The seminar will be of interest to energy managers, production managers and senior technical engineers, together with equipment manufacturers, trade associations and all who can make a practical contribution to the improved efficiency of energy use in the UK industry.

The fee for the seminar will be £20 including VAT. Further details of the programme and application forms may be obtained from: Mr R. D Thornton, The British Ceramic Research Association, Queens Road, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7LQ, tel. 0782 45431, telex 36228 BCRA G.

[1] Industrial energy thrift scheme, report No 3, 'Energy use in the bricks, fireclay and refractory goods industry' – available from the Library, Department of Industry, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6RB. Energy audit series no 2, building brick industry, and no 4, bulk refractories industry – available from the Library, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ.

Proposals to increase postal charges

The Post Office announced on 23 May that it has made proposals to the Post Office Users' National Council (Pounc) for increases in postal charges to come into effect from the end of July 1979.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, said that the goverment accepted reluctantly, subject to the views of Pounc, that these increases were necessary if the postal business was to meet its financial targets for the current year. He said that the government views with grave concern, however, the decision of postal workers to refuse to co-operate in measures that would help to reduce costs. For example, postmen had only recently rejected an offer which had earlier been supported by their union's national executive, of more pay for more productivity. Yet there was no need to fear redundancies in an industry with a high level of unfilled vacancies and a disturbing level of labour turnover.

Sir Keith added that he proposed to take an early opportunity to discuss with the chairman of the Post Office ways in which postal efficiency could be improved with a view to ensuring that customers obtained the best possible service at a reasonable cost, whole paying good wages to postal employees.

Electricity and gas prices to go up

Electricity and gas prices for domestic consumers are to go up – by an average of 8.6 per cent for electricity and 8 per cent for gas.

The Price Commission announced on 17 May that it felt any further restriction on prices would be inappropriate following the government's announcement that pre-notification of price increases would cease (see page 368). The commission's investigations into gas and electricity price rises are still going on and are due to be completed next month.

The investigation into the British Gas Corporation's proposal to raise charges was announced on 23 March. Subsequently the Gas Corporation was allowed the whole of the notified increases for non-domestic users as an interim increase. Gas prices to domestic consumers remained frozen.

SALE OF SURPLUS FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT

Location:	OPCS, Building 3, Christchurch Road, Somerford, Christchurch, Bournemouth
Date and time:	Thursday 5 July 1979 commencing 0930 hours
Viewing:	Wednesday 4 July 1979, 1000–1600 hours
Auctioneers:	Austin and Wyatt, 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7AX Tel: 0329 234 211
Catalogue:	Obtainable from Auctioneers, price 15p
Car Parking:	A limited amount for private cars will be available on site

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PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

BRISTOL

A public auction sale of surplus government furniture and equipment has been arranged at the DOE PSA Supplies Store, Bay 5, Ashton Vale Road, Bristol, Avon BS3 2HJ.
The sale will commence at 10.00 hours on the 13th June and viewing will be allowed from 10.00 to 16.00 hours on the day previous.

The auctioneers are Messrs. Stanley, Alder and Price, 7 St. Stephens Street, Bristol, Avon BS1 1EG, telephone 0272 299151 and catalogues will be available directly from them, price 15p.

WEMBLEY AUCTION SALES 1979

5 June

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Stores India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Miscellaneous office equipment and furniture etc. (Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available from the auctioneers, price 20p)
Auctioneers:	Messrs Hollingsworth Westcombe House 56/58 Whitcomb Street Leicester Square London WC2H 7DR Tel. 01-839 1875

Patents report lists inventive trends in 1978

Substitutes for asbestos fibres in fire-proof building boards and non-addictive alternatives for morphine were among the problems tackled by inventors last year. This is revealed in the annual report on inventive trends of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs, published on 22 May. (See Trade and Industry, 25 May, page 327). We look here at the main points of the report.

Trade marks

Both trade mark applications and trade marks advertised increased by 12 per cent and the number of trade marks registered rose by 5½ per cent. These increases, together with a continued high staff turnover, have led to some arrears of work but standards have been maintained.

Registered designs

Design applications increased by 15 per cent to 5147 in 1978, the highest annual figure since 1972. Registrations have again shown an increase, at 4178 being nearly 10 per cent higher than in 1977.

International developments

The European patent office in Munich is still building up, but it already includes a substantial UK contingent. It has had a successful start, filings being close to the forecasts made during preparatory work.

The Patent Co-operation Treaty, a world scheme for sharing the work of examining patent applications between patent offices, had a modest start but may improve as further countries accede to it.

UK patent office staff continued discussions with experts from member states and the commission of the EEC on a proposed block exemption for certain categories of patent licence agreements under article 85 of the treaty of Rome.

Discussions also continued within the EEC commission working group set up to consider commission proposals for establishing community trade mark law.

Prospects for 1979

The report notes that the first substantive examinations of patent applications under the 1977 act will be carried out during 1979 and the capacity of the examiners to deal with the new patentability criterion of the 'inventive step' will be put to the test.

The expansion of the European patent office will have an increasing impact with the transfer of some 20 UK examiners to Munich or The Hague and an expected consequential reduction in the rate of filing of UK applications. Examination of both old and new act cases will continue together throughout the year although, by the end of 1979, all primary examinations of old act applications will probably have been completed.

In the trade marks registry, the main task will be to consolidate and reduce the backlog. Increasing use will be made of computer facilities.

Some of the fields in which patent applications were filed

Health risk

In view of the health risk attached to asbestos fibres there have been efforts to replace the fibres in asbestos cement boards by substitutes such as gamma-aluminium oxide.

Medical field

The report says that there has been interest in certain peptide drugs particularly those having morphine-like properties which are thought to be non-addictive. There has been continuing activity in the development of renal dialysis units using semi-permeable membranes for use in treating kidney patients.

Energy

Domestic hot water systems which make use of solar heating continue to attract attention as do the technical problems connected with the offshore oil industry.

Safeguarding the environment

Continuing public concern to safeguard the environment appears to have caused a transfer of interest from the development of aerosols as propellants towards the use of pump-action dispensers. The report notes that further developments have taken place in the treatment of exhaust gases.

Automation

Microprocessors are finding increasing application in control systems and robots that may be programmed to carry out automatic operations are receiving much attention. The report notes that there is a continuing trend towards automated manufacturing processes, including fully automatic machines for assembling and wiring up components on printed circuit boards as well as devices capable of connecting the many strands of telecommunication cables to each other.

Textiles

There have been developments in the production of hydrophilic synthetic fibres which allow moisture to be retained by the fibres thus allowing garments to be produced which resemble cotton and are more comfortable to wear. In addition, there have been developments in fabric conditioning, softening, antistatic and perfuming formulations for use in home laundering. The report points out that static electricity is not only present in garments made of synthetic materials but also, for example, in carpets using synthetic filaments and attention has been directed to the production of antistatic elements for carpets making use of carbon particles embedded in a resin.

Copies of the Comptroller-General's report, HCP 2, £1.25, are available from HMSO or the sales counter of the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London WC2A 1AY and Station Square House, Orpington, Kent BR5 3RD.

Rise in British Caledonian's domestic air fares

Increases in UK domestic air fares applied for by British Caledonian Airways have been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Examples of the increases in one-way economy fares effective from 1 June are:

	Present fare	Fare from 1 June 1979
	£	£
London (Gatwick)–		
Glasgow/Edinburgh	35.00	37.00
Manchester	24.30	26.00
Birmingham	19.00	20.00
Glasgow–Newcastle	15.00	16.00

The authority has also approved an increase from £21 to £22 in the off-peak fares between London(Gatwick) and Glasgow/Edinburgh. The fares will be available on BCAL services on one flight per day in each direction Monday to Friday and on all BCAL flights on Saturdays and Sundays.

The increases result in higher fares from Gatwick than from Heathrow to Glasgow and Edinburgh. The difference is justified, CAA points out, by the fact that BCAL offers cabin service and has taken account of more recent fuel price increases than in the case of fares to these points from Heathrow. The increased revenue from the higher fares will also offset some of the deficit BCAL experiences in operating those routes.

PSF invests £24m in new paint plant

Pressed Steel Fisher has just commissioned a modern and technically advanced paint facility at the company's Castle Bromwich plant in Birmingham, production centre of body shells for Jaguar Rover Triumph Ltd.

The overall project including civil engineering work, the provision of anciliary services, paint mixing facilities and first class amenities for operators, represents a total investment of £24 million. The new facility is housed on two working levels and covers an area of half-a-million square feet.

Built in the first instance to paint the Jaguar Series III, the plant and the process have been designed to ensure consistently high standards of finish by meticulous preparation of each car body at every stage of production and painting. An important factor in maintaining high product standards is the siting of the new facility adjacent to the body build area, providing an uninterrupted flow of work.

Merger proposals cleared

John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following acquisition to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Great Lakes Carbon Corporation of the shares in Anglo Great Lakes Corporation Ltd which it does not already own.

Mr Nott has also decided not to refer to the commission the acquisition by United Biscuits Holdings of the Rakusen Group.

Government sales

13 June 1979 – Miscellaneous

Location
Embassy Suite, Balkerne Lane, Colchester, Essex

Auctioneer
Fenn Wright Garrod Turner (Dept L), 146 High Street, Colchester (0206 46161)

Stores lying in South East England including Mini saloons, Bedford ambulances, generators, binoculars, steel, rope, drills, lathes and milling machines, wireless and electrical spares, MT spares, petrol and diesel engines, barometers, sextants, compasses, tyres, grass cutting spares, textiles, furniture and many other items.

20 and 21 June 1979 – Miscellaneous

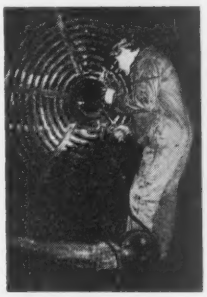
Location
Post House Hotel, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton

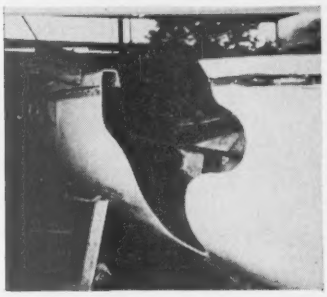
Auctioneer
Austin and Wyatt: (Dept L),: 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants (0329 234211)

Items lying at Farnborough, Liphook and Southampton comprising aluminium, gearboxes, generating sets, portable, hand and power tools, photographic equipment, scaffolding, tyres, machine tools, fork lift trucks, vehicles, jerricans, furniture, clothing and many other lots.

Catalogues, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 40p, postage 15p.

Ship Repair
Engine/Boiler repairs & surveys
GRP Lifeboat repairs
Cargo gear surveys
Crankshaft grinding in situ
Plumbing & Pipework
Steelwork





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Technology news

Harwell survey shows extent of free-text software market

The results of a survey commissioned by Atomic Energy Research Establishment Harwell has shown a rapid increase of interest in free-text systems and conclude that by the end of 1981, at least 25 per cent of computer installations expect to install text-based information retrieval. The survey, covering 900 computer users, management consultants and information specialists in Great Britain, was to assess the future market for free-text information retrieval software such as Harwell's Status system. Status, says Harwell, is expected to take a significant share of the market.

Free-text systems allow users to store documents or abstracts in their normal text form – often straight from a word processing system – and then to assess the information in the data bases through 'English language' inquiries. For example, it is possible to access all documents referring to 'car' and 'motor' but excluding those containing the words 'foreign' and 'imported'.

Status requires no pre-indexing of the information and unlike the Post Office's Prestel does not search through index pages but retrieves items of interest directly from the free-text content. Applications include libraries of technical abstracts and research reports, company personnel records, legal and patent documents, accident reports, catalogues of suppliers and contractors and a national database of hazardous chemicals.

Harwell's survey revealed that while relatively few users of free-text software in the past have acquired package systems, the high cost of in-house development and the increased performance of the packages available are pointing more and more prospective users towards the latest packages. A package such as Status can be installed on a machine and a database running within a few weeks of purchase, and staff can be trained in a few hours to use the system.

Status – which now has over 20 users in UK and abroad – was liked by the respondents of the survey for its ease-of-use, wide range of facilities and flexibility in adapting to a wide range of applications. Users of free-text systems cited cost benefits from their use, but emphasised that gains in efficiency of their information systems were more important than financial benefits.

The survey also concluded that the impetus to install a free-text system often comes from the end user – technical manager or librarian for example – rather than from the data processing manager, many of whom seem to be less aware of new developments in the field than their users. Using a package approach for free-text information retrieval allows the user to set-up and exploit his system with a minimum of assistance from specialist computer staff.

Status was developed by AERE Harwell to be a 'portable' system; it has so far been successfully implemented on DEC, GEC, ICL and Prime minicomputers and also on ICL, IBM, Burroughs, Honeywell and Univac mainframes. Status is marketed through a group of franchise holders appointed by Harwell to install Status on particular computers.

Copies of the survey and further information on Status can be obtained from Derek Matkin, Marketing and Sales Department, Building 329, Harwell, Oxfordshire OX11 0RA, tel. Abingdon (0235) 24141 ext. 2704.

Remote sensing of earth resources: publication updated

Details of some 250 organisations in the UK that use some means of remote sensing for earth surveys are featured in an updated publication from the Department of Industry. The information in this directory has been compiled from answers to a questionnaire and in most instances reflects the position at September 1978.

Organisations engaged on similar or related activities are grouped under the following headings:

- ☐ Agriculture/forestry/terrain resources/soil survey
- ☐ Land use survey/mapping (orthographic and thematic)
- ☐ Geological structure/mineral resources/landform survey
- ☐ Water resources (hydrology, glaciology)
- ☐ Marine resources/ocean surveys (oceanography)
- ☐ Meteorology
- ☐ Environment/pollution
- ☐ Interpretation techniques (data processing)
- ☐ Sensor technology (including space platforms)
- ☐ Multidisciplinary resources surveys.

The information given for each body consists of a brief description of its activity, the facilities or equipment it owns or has access to, a brief indication of future plans, and any relevant publications and holdings of imagery.

Organisations active in more than one field can be located through a subject index. The publication includes a separate list arranged by country of holders of space imagery for countries outside the UK.

Appendices in the directory cover: government departments and other bodies involved in administration and/or sponsorship of remote sensing activities; facilities for education and training in remote sensing, including universities providing opportunities for research, learned societies, and special library services; manufacturers and suppliers of remote sensing equipment and services in the UK. An associated index is provided, covering the main items of equipment and services.

Copies of the publication 'Remote sensing of earth resources' fourth edition 1978, published by the Department of Industry, 1979, 339 pages, are available from Technology Reports Centre, Orpington, Kent, price £10.50 including postage.

CAP demonstrates self-training by tv

Computer Analysts and Programmers, part of the CAP-CPP group, has begun showing selected audiences of educationalists and industrial training officers the use of an 'intelligent' tv set as a self-training mechanism.

This is the outcome of the first stage of a £90,000 development project undertaken for the Department of Industry. The project aims to exploit CAP-CPP's advance in Telesoftware to provide a stimulating and responsive training facility available in the home and the office. For example, it employs the power of the new microprocessor devices to teach people about microprocessors.

A key part, says CAP, has been the creation of an initial set of software tools so a teacher can build and modify his, or her, own training material for this environment. The demonstration includes examples of such material with interactive questions and answers, plus 'animated graphics' in colour on a viewdata tv set.

The result is that businesses can build their own training courses and run them on a stand-alone machine, through an internal viewdata system or via the national Prestel service provided by the Post Office.

The viewdata demonstration is based on the Post Office's Prestel service. CAP's Telesoftware enables computer programs to be distributed through any viewdata service so that the user or student can retrieve a selected program to run on a local microprocessor-based terminal.

The Telesoftware facility uses a high-level programming language. CAP MicroCobol, which runs identically on a variety of microprocessors, this freeing the tv terminal and other manufacturers from a commitment to a single type of microprocessor.

Parliament

Monday, 21 May

Industry department responsibilities

Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would set out the precise responsibilities of the ministers in his department.

Sir Keith Joseph said Minister of State, Lord Trenchard, would deal primarily with the following private sector industries (except for subsidiaries of the National Enterprise Board): chemicals and textiles; mechanical equipment; electrical engineering and process plant; machine tools and mechanical engineering; vehicles; computers and electronics; paper, timber, minerals, metals and other manufacturing. His other responsibilities would include regional policy.

Minister of State, Adam Butler, would deal with aerospace; shipbuilding and shiprepairing; steel (including the private sector); the Post Office; Cable and Wireless Ltd; the National Enterprise Board and its subsidiaries; and research and development.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, David Mitchell, would assist Lord Trenchard and he would assist also the secretary of state with responsibility for small firms.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Michael Marshall, would assist Mr Butler.

Trade department responsibilities

Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would set out the precise responsibilities of the ministers in his department.

Mr Nott said in addition to assisting him in the exercise of his overall responsibilities, the ministers had been given the following special responsibilities:

Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Sally Oppenheim, had special responsibility for consumer affairs and competition policy.

Minister of State for Trade, Cecil Parkinson, had special responsibility for overseas trade policy, commercial relations and tariffs; the Export Credits Guarantee Department and the British Overseas Trade Board.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Norman Tebbit, had special responsibility for civil aviation, marine and shipping policy; the newspaper, film and publishing industries; and tourism, hotel and travel industries.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Reginald Eyre, had special responsibility for company affairs and insolvency; insurance supervision; patent, trademark and copyright matters; and the distributive and service trades.

Price increases

Michael Latham (Melton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he would state his proposals for containing price increases; and say what was the underlying trend at the time of the general election.

Mr Nott replied that prices would be best contained by the operation of firm monetary and fiscal policies; and by the strengthening of competition policy. The government's proposals to strengthen competition policy and to abolish the Price Commission were announced last week. A bill would be introduced after the Whitsun recess. In the government's view, the Price Commission Act had destroyed jobs and investment, depressed industrial confidence and had an insignificant effect on price inflation. At the time of the general election inflation was on a rising trend.

Trade with the EEC

Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was the latest estimate of the United Kingdom trade balance in relation to the other EEC countries.

Mr Parkinson replied that in 1978 the UK had a visible trade deficit of £2,247 million with the rest of the community. A large part of Britain's trade was in manufactured goods and the government was not satisfied with the current balance of trade. If there was to be this desired improvement, UK manufacturers and other exporters had to take advantage of the market opportunities which existed both in the UK and abroad and the government's policies would be aimed at providing the economic climate which would encourage this.

Food price freeze

Stan Thorne (Preston South) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he would institute legislation to obtain a six months price freeze on essential foodstuffs and other goods.

Mrs Oppenheim said powers already existed to regulate the price of food and certain other goods. The previous government only used those powers for food covered by its subsidies programme. She expected to use the powers only to protect funds received from the EEC to subsidise food prices for British consumers.

Dowgate report

Stanley Clinton Davis (Hackney Central) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement on the action he proposed to take in the light of the report of the inspectors on Ferguson and General Investments Ltd, formerly Dowgate and General Investments Ltd.

Mr Eyre said that no action was called for by his department in relation to the present directors and officers of Ferguson and General Investments Ltd (formerly Dowgate). With respect to earlier events in that company and CST Investments Ltd, publication of the report would be of value to all concerned with improving standards of company behaviour. The inspectors made a number of recommendations for changes in the law as it applied to inspectors' powers, directors' duties and the operation of company affairs. His department was considering these and would discuss them with interested parties.

Public body appointments

Michael English (Nottingham West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade for which quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations he was responsible.

Mrs Oppenheim said such organisations were not officially defined. The following is a list of public bodies (other than nationalised industries) to which the secretary of state makes appointments.

Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites
Advisory Committee on the Safety of Household Electrical Equipment
Advisory Committee for the National Film Development Fund
Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency
British Film Fund Agency
British Hallmarking Council
British Overseas Trade Advisory Council
British Overseas Trade Board
British Tourist Authority
Central Transport Consultative Committee
11 area transport users' consultative committees
Cinematograph Films Council
Civil Aviation Authority Consumer Protection Advisory Committee
Distribution Statistics Advisory Committee
Domestic Coal Consumers' Council
Electricity Consumers' Council
12 area electricity consultative councils
English Tourist Board
Export Guarantees Advisory Council
Hearing Aid Council
Insolvency Law Review Committee
Insurance Advisory Panel
Insurance Brokers Registration Council
Interim Action Committee on the Film Industry
Metrication Board
Monopolies and Mergers Commission
National Consumer Council
Scottish Consumer Council
Welsh Consumer Council
National Film Finance Corporation
National Gas Consumers' Council
12 regional gas consumers' councils
Northern Lighthouse Board
Office of Fair Trading
Overseas Projects Board
Pilotage Commission
Policyholders Protection Board
Post Office Users' National Council
Post Office Users' Council for Northern Ireland
Post Office Users' Council for Scotland
Post Office Users' Council for Wales
Price Commission
Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board
Tate and Lyle Consumer Safeguards Committee

British Airways

Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement about the government's plans for British Airways.

Mr Tebbit said that British Airways would continue to receive support from the government in the development of British civil air transport.

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Sir Keith Joseph
Ministers of State: Adam Butler
Lord Trenchard
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Marshall
David Mitchell

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: John Nott
Ministers of State: Sally Oppenheim
Cecil Parkinson
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Norman Tebbit
Reginald Eyre

Oil pollution

Tam Dalyell (West Lothian) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement on the work of the marine pollution control unit and of the standing committee on pollution clearance at sea in relation to the procurement of equipment to combat oil spillages.

Mr Tebbit replied that his department's marine pollution control unit was proceeding with the acquisition of additional equipment on the basis of the proposals contained in the report 'Improved arrangements to combat pollution at sea'. The standing committee on pollution clearance at sea had been informed of these proposals and its advice would be sought as necessary.

MMC reports

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many investigations by the Monopolies Commission in the past 12 months were the subject of final reports and how many were abandoned.

Mrs Oppenheim said the commission submitted final reports during last year on six investigations. One merger reference was laid aside when the merger concerned was abandoned by the parties; the reference of the supply and export of certain metal fasteners was allowed to lapse without a report, in particular because of difficulties in definitions that made it impossible for the commission to collect the necessary information.

Price Commission requests

John Wells (Maidstone) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if, in view of his proposals to abolish the Price Commission, he would take steps to remove the powers of the commission to take legal action against firms which had refused to fill in questionnaires issued by it.

Mrs Oppenheim said that pending the abolition of the Price Commission, it was her intention that the three examinations which the commission was currently conducting should continue. She had great sympathy with companies, especially small firms, who found the weight of questionnaires issued by the commission onerous. This was part of the operation of the Price Commission Act which the government had announced its intention to repeal as soon as possible. However, while it remained in effect the law was the law and had to be obeyed and she hoped that firms would comply with lawful requests from the commission.

Common fund

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was the policy of the government towards the common fund now under discussion at Unctad V.

Mr Parkinson said the government supported the proposal to establish the common fund and associated itself with the general consensus that was reached at the Unctad negotiating conference in March on the main elements of the structure and financial resources of the fund.

Trade with Latin America

Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what plans he had to improve trade with the democratic states in Latin America; and what attitude he would adopt to those with dictatorships.

Mr Parkinson said in common with the policy of previous governments, and where compatible with Britain's international obligations, he believed that civil trade with other countries should be deter-

mined by commercial considerations and not by the character of the governments concerned. He would be doing all he could to improve the UK's trade worldwide.

Mar-ageing steel

Frank Allaun (Salford East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what permission had been granted for the export of Mar-ageing steel used in nuclear technology; and for which countries.

Mr Parkinson said no permission had been granted. Certain specially designed items with a nuclear application and made of Mar-ageing steel had been placed under export control, but the material itself, which had a wide range of uses, had not. Export controls on items and materials which might be used in a nuclear facility were under constant review.

Tuesday, 22 May

Footwear industry scheme

John Garrett (Norwich South) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make a statement on the future of the government scheme of assistance for the footwear industry.

Mr Mitchell said the secretary of state was reviewing all existing schemes of support and would give his decision on the future of the footwear scheme in due course. In the meantime, applications for assistance under the scheme would continue to be processed.

Mr Garrett also asked the Secretary of State for Industry how much money had so far been granted to the footwear industry under the scheme; how many applications for assistance had been received from footwear manufacturers; and how many applications had been made by firms in Norwich.

Mr Mitchell said that at 18 May, offers of assistance under the footwear industry scheme totalled £1.13 million, and 245 applications had been received of which 19 were from firms in Norwich.

National Enterprise Board

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether it was intended that the National Enterprise Board should proceed with its investment in Inmos and subsidiary companies.

Mr Marshall said he did not envisage the board failing to meet its contractual commitments.

Wednesday, 23 May

Polyurethane foam in furniture

Ronald Brown (Hackney South and Shoreditch) asked the Secretary of State for Trade following the deaths of 10 people in the recent fire in Woolworths of Manchester, when he proposed to introduce legislation to protect consumers from the dangers inherent in furniture containing polyurethane foam in the upholstery.

Mrs Oppenheim said she proposed to make regulations under the Consumer Safety Act 1978 as soon as possible requiring all upholstered furniture supplied or offered for supply in the UK to be resistant to ignition from smokers' materials (cigarettes and matches).

To give the manufacturers time to modify their furniture where necessary, the regulations would, for a limited period, permit the supply of furniture not complying with this requirement if it bore a warning label indicating that it was ignitable by smokers' materials.

The length of the period during which warning labelling would be acceptable would be one of the matters to be determined in the light of consultations with interested parties which she proposed to hold without delay.

Silicon chips

Renée Short (Wolverhampton North East) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action he was taking to support the United Kingdom's lead in silicon chips made from III-V compounds and what he was doing to enable that British research in this field would be used by manufacturing industry.

Mr Mitchell said support was given through the Science Research Council, the computers systems and electronics requirements board and the Ministry of Defence to research and development on microelectronic and optoelectronic devices made from III-V compounds at universities, industrial research laboratories and government research establishments. Some industrial manufacturers were selling products based on this work.

Nodule extraction

Renée Short (Wolverhampton North East) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what he was doing to ensure British mining companies were fully exploiting deep sea nodule extraction.

Mr Mitchell said that when the necessary technology had been developed and proved, manganese nodules from the deep seabed would provide an important new source of cobalt, copper, manganese and nickel, UK requirements of which were all imported. It was therefore important that British companies should have the opportunity to take part in commercial exploration for, and recovery of, these resources on terms which were reasonable and non-discriminatory. At the UN law of the sea conference the UK had been seeking to negotiate an internationally acceptable framework for seabed mining which would enable them to do so.

European satellite programme

Renée Short (Wolverhampton North East) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was his policy towards the Post Office joining France and Germany in supporting Europe's joint communications satellite programme.

Mr Marshall replied that the Post Office was already taking part in the European communication satellite programmes through its membership of interim Eutelsat, the organisation that will manage the European system. The Post Office signed the interim Eutelsat agreement on 22 July 1977 and 16 other European countries, including France and the Federal Republic of Germany, were now signatories.

Co-operative Development Agency

John Grant (Islington Central) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what plans he had to expand co-operative enterprise through the Co-operative Development Agency.

Mr Mitchell said one of the agency's statutory functions was to identify and recommend ways in which the establishment, development and evolution of co-operatives might be facilitated. He understood that the agency had decided to concentrate first on helping the formation of viable industrial and service co-operatives owned and controlled by the people who work in them. He welcomed the prospect of a flourishing producer co-operative sector.

The secretary of state hoped to be in touch shortly with the agency's chairman, Lord Oram, to arrange an early discussion on the best way forward.

Thursday, 24 May

Coking coal

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked whether the government proposed that import restrictions should be imposed on coking coal imported by tye British Steel Corporation into the United Kingdom from Australia.

Mr Marshall replied that the government was reviewing the previous government's decision against the need for both the British Steel Corporation and the National Coal Board to operate commercially and efficiently.

Assistance to Massey Ferguson

William McKelvey (Kilmarnock) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would list the amount of state-aided assistance afforded to the Massey Ferguson Company over the past 35 years.

Mr Mitchell said that subsidiaries of the Massey Ferguson group in this country had received no government financial assistance since 1974 under sections 7 and 8 of the Industry Act 1972 or under the Science and Technology Act 1965. Regional development grants paid to these subsidiaries since 1 October 1974 totalled £701,000 of which £594,000 was for its Kilmarnock factory and the remainder for its Manchester and Knowsley factories.

Microprocessor assistance

Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what figures were available for the government money made available to industry for the application of microprocessors and if he would list the firms receiving this form of financial assistance.

Mr Mitchell replied that under the microprocessor application project his department had so far committed some £9 million to assist industry with specific projects for the application of microprocessors in end-products or manufacturing processes. Considerations of commercial confidentiality related to the development element in most projects preclude publication of the names of firms receiving such assistance.

Shipbuilding orders

Richard Shephard (Aldridge-Brownhills) asked what was the total tonnage of orders won by the British shipbuilding industry in the most recent annual period for which figures are available; what were the comparable figures in each of the previous 10 annual periods; and what was the current annual building capacity of the British shipbuilding industry.

Mr Marshall gave the information in the table. The Department of Industry was unable to provide information on current building capacity as it was a matter for British Shipbuilders.

GROSS TONNAGE (MERCHANT SHIPS 100 GROSS TONNES AND OVER): ORDERS PLACED IN UNITED KINGDOM YARDS

	000's gross tonnage
Year ending	
March 69	1 016
March 70	987
March 71	1 526
March 72	1 047
March 73	1 989
March 74	3 559
March 75	396
March 76	99
March 77	444
March 78	591
March 79	182

Intervention fund for shipbuilding

Don Dixon (Jarrow) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he intended to proceed with the intervention fund to British Shipbuilders to win shipbuilding orders; and, if so, how much finance he intended to allocate.

Mr Marshall said the European commission had been asked to renew its approval of the intervention fund which expired on 15 March 1979, for a further period to enable the government to complete its review of the industry. He stressed, however, that this did not commit the secretary of state to using the fund; each case would need to be looked at strictly on its merits.

Unratified conventions

Stanley Clinton Davis (Hackney Central) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement concerning ratification by the United Kingdom of those conventions and protocols, agreed in the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation, which had been signed by the United Kingdom but remain unratified.

Mr Tebbit said the Merchant Shipping Act 1979 contained the powers necessary to implement various conventions and protocols that had been agreed under the auspices of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation and signed by the UK. He anticipated that the UK would ratify a number of those instruments in the near future.

Accountancy discipline

Terence Higgins (Worthing) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he is satisfied with progress on proposals to strengthen disciplinary procedures in the accountancy profession.

Mr Eyre said implementation of the proposals was a matter for the accountancy profession itself. He understood that if the profession voted in favour of the proposals they would be implemented early in 1980. The government, which was following developments with sympathetic interest recognised the sense of responsibility and self-discipline evidenced by the proposals, and would welcome widespread support by the members of the profession.

UK investment overseas

Frank Field (Birkenhead) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would list the proportion of gross domestic product invested abroad by British-based firms and if he would present similar data for each EEC member state, Japan and the United States of America, for 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960 and each subsequent year.

Mr Parkinson replied that for purposes of international comparison, the only broadly comparable information available related to UK direct investment abroad (excluding oil) and to the United States' direct investment abroad (including oil). It covered 1960 and subsequent years and is shown as a percentage of gross national product (which includes profits earned abroad) and for the UK in money values, in the following table. Overseas direct investment measured the amounts invested in share and loan capital, retained profits and trade credit by UK companies in their related concerns abroad. How much out of these amounts was used by the overseas concerns for capital expenditure on fixed assets and expenditure on stocks and work in progress was not

known, and so no comparison was possible with home investment of all UK companies which related only to such expenditure. Almost all UK direct investment overseas was financed from profits retained overseas or by foreign currency borrowing, and did not reduce the UK reserves.

	Direct investment overseas by UK companies [1]		
	Value (£m)	Ratio to gross national product at current prices (per cent)	Direct investment overseas by US companies as ratio of gross national product at current prices [2] (per cent)
1960	250	1.1	n.a.
1961	226	0.9	n.a.
1962	209	0.8	n.a.
1963	236	0.9	0.6
1964	263	0.9	0.6
1965	308	1.0	0.8
1966	276	0.8	0.7
1967	281	0.8	0.6
1968	410	1.1	0.6
1969	549	1.4	0.6
1970	546	1.2	0.8
1971	676	1.4	0.7
1972	737	1.3	0.7
1973	1 621	2.5	0.9
1974	1 575	2.1	0.6
1975	1 094	1.2	0.9
1976	2 108	1.9	0.7
1977	1 790	1.4	0.6
1978(p)	1 915	1.4	n.a.

[1] Source Department of Trade's overseas transactions inquiry results of which were published in Business Monitor, M4, overseas transactions'. [2] Derived from various issues of the United States' Department of Commerce 'survey of current business'. p Provisional.

Friday, 25 May

British Shipbuilders' compensation

Donald Dewar (Glasgow, Garscadden) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would list the compensation paid for each firm incorporated in British Shipbuilders; and if he would publish the names of those firms for which compensation figures had not been agreed and estimate when these outstanding negotiations would be completed.

Mr Marshall replied that compensation had been settled as follows for companies which vested in British Shipbuilders:

	Amount (including any payment on account) £000
Listed securities	
Robb Caledon Shipbuilders Ltd	1 739
John G. Kincaid and Co Ltd (preference shares)	118
Unlisted securities	
Barclay, Curle and Co Ltd	15 000
Clelands Shipbuilding Co Ltd	
The Goole Shipbuilding and Repairing Co Ltd	
Swan Hunter Shipbuilders Ltd	
Smith's Dock Co Ltd	
Swan Hunter Training and Safety Co Ltd	
Austin and Pickersgill Ltd	14 000
George Clark and NEM Ltd	1 940

In addition, payments on account had been made as follows covering all the companies vested in British Shipbuilders for which compensation remains to be determined:

	£000
Brooke Marine Ltd	650
Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd	400
Hall Russell and Co Ltd	650
Hawthorn Leslie (Engineers) Ltd	550
John G. Kincaid and Co Ltd	2 250
Scott Lithgow Ltd	750
Scott Lithgow Drydocks Ltd	
Vickers Shipbuilding Group Ltd	8 450
Vosper Thornycroft (UK) Ltd	1 350
Vosper Shiprepairers Ltd	
Yarrow (Shipbuilders) Ltd	2 250
Yarrow (Training) Ltd	

Mr Marshall could not say when the remaining cases would be resolved. Two had been referred to arbitration. Negotiations were proceeding in the other outstanding cases and it was not possible to say whether these cases would be settled by negotiation or arbitration.

Trade with South Africa

Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was the total value of exports to South Africa and imports from South Africa in the most recent annual period for which figures are available and if he would publish similar trade figures for Nigeria, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya, respectively.

Mr Parkinson gave the following information for the period February 1978 to January 1979:

£ million

	South Africa	Nigeria	Zambia	Tanzania	Kenya
Imports (cif)	762.5	309.1	69.4	38.8	123.7
Exports (fob)	668.7	1 116.0	67.7	112.4	196.6

Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics.

Monsanto's nylon production

Ernest Armstrong (North West Durham) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what discussion he had had with the Monsanto Co about its proposals to cease nylon fibre operation in Great Britain and what government incentives had been offered to keep production in being and maintain jobs.

Mr Mitchell said that the secretary of state had had no discussion with Monsanto about its proposals but the Secretary of State for Scotland had met representatives of the company in view of the government's concern about the jobs to be lost. The question of government assistance to the company did not arise since it had made it clear that it could see no prospect of viability for its nylon operations in the UK and that government financial assistance could not alter that judgement.

Rates of return in capital

Michael Meacher (Oldham West) asked what had been the real rate of return, with capital or stocks valued at replacement cost, in United Kingdom manufacturing for each year since 1945; and what comparable figures were available for West Germany, France, the United States of America, Japan and Sweden.

Mr Mitchell said that estimates for the rate of return on capital employed for private manufacturing companies on a replacement cost basis after deducting stock appreciation were available only from 1960 and were last published in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 22 September 1978. Revised figures for recent years and a provisional estimate for 1978 are given below. The figures are based on national accounts data, and express profits less capital consumption at replacement cost less stock appreciation as a percentage of the net stock of fixed assets at replacement cost plus book value of stocks; (see *Trade and Industry* article). International comparisons were very difficult to make because of severe conceptual and measurement problems but a special study commissioned by OECD which gave estimates for several countries was expected to be published early next month.

RATES OF RETURN (PRE-TAX) IN PRIVATE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES IN THE UK

	per cent
1973	5.6
1974	1.4
1975	1.7
1976	2.1
1977	3.5
1978 (provisional)	3.5

Noisy aircraft

David Mellar (Wandsworth, Putney) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how soon certification of aircraft using Heathrow airport would lead to the phasing out of noisier aircraft from using the airport; and if he would identify those noisier aircraft and, in each case, the date upon which their use of the airport will end.

David Mellar (Wandsworth, Putney) also asked what proportion of aircraft currently using Heathrow were noise certified and to what extent the secretary of state expected that proportion to change in each year until noise certification was fully applied in respect of subsonic aircraft.

Mr Tebbit replied that at present about one-third of all movements at Heathrow were made by noise certificated subsonic jet aircraft. By 1990 the proportion was expected to be over 95 per cent. It was not possible to make firm estimates for intervening years or to predict the retirement dates of particular aircraft types, but the intention to prohibit the use of non-noise certificated subsonic jet aircraft on the UK register from 1 January 1986 clearly would set a limit on the life of such aircraft with UK airlines.

Commodity price stabiliation

Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what his policy was on the stabilisation of commodity prices.

Mr Parkinson said that the government was in favour of measures to stabilise commodity prices where these were practical and cost effective and it supported the programme of work underway in United Nations' conference on trade and Development (Unctad) designed to establish, on a commodity-by-commodity basis, the scope for international action to stabilise prices. The government also supported the proposal to establish the common fund and could associate itself with the general consensus that was reached at the Unctad negotiating conference in March on the main elements of the structure and financial resources of the fund.

Trade with the EEC

John Evans (Newton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what sectors of manufactured goods United Kingdom trade were in surplus or deficit with the EEC; and what is the surplus or deficit in each sector.

Mr Parkinson gave the following details of the crude balance of trade (exports valued fob less imports valued cif) with other EEC countries in 1978 in sections 5 to 8 inclusive of the Standard International Trade Classification (Revision 2) and the various divisions comprising them.

£ million

Commodity	Exports fob less imports cif
Chemical elements and compounds	−22.4
Mineral tar and crude chemicals	+12.1
Dyeing, tanning, etc materials	+8.8
Medical and pharmaceutical products	+90.1
Essential oils and perfumes	+51.0
Fertilisers, manufactured	−12.1
Explosives and pyrotechnics	+4.6
Plastic materials	−215.9
Chemicals materials, nes	−42.4
Chemicals and related products	**−126.2**
Leather and leather manufactures nes	+34.8
Rubber manufactures nes	+4.2
Wood and cork manufactures (excluding furniture	−55.7
Paper manufactures	−32.4
Textiles yarn, etc	−254.4
Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	+377.2
Iron and steel	−285.5
Non-ferrous metals	+61.9
Manufactures of metal nes	+12.5
Manufactured goods by material	**−137.5**
Power generating machinery	+4.2
Machinery for specialised industry	−90.9
Metalworking machinery	−86.3
General industrial machinery	−141.7
Office machines ADP equipment	−18.0
Telecoses and reproducing equipment	+16.4
Electrical machinery	−176.9
Road vehicles	−814.3
Other transport equipment	+109.2
Machinery and transport equipment	**−1 198.3**
Sanitary and lighting	**−10.3**
Furniture and parts	−25.9
Travel goods, handbags	−12.2
Articles of clothing etc	+58.3
Footwear	−83.2
Professional and scientific instruments	−4.5
Photographic and optical goods, clocks	−58.8
Miscellaneous manufactures	−16.3
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	**−153.0**
Manufactured goods	**−1 615.1**

Monopoly conveyancing

Ken Weetch (Ipswich) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would refer the solicitors' monopoly in conveyancing to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Parkinson said monopoly references were normally made by the Director General of Fair Trading. He understood that he had no plans to make a reference concerning conveyancing. The rules which prevented persons who were neither barristers nor solicitors from undertaking conveyancing on behalf of others were already being investigated by the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

European community news

Directive protecting rights against insolvency agreed

Ministers attending the labour and social affairs council on 15 May agreed on the substance of a directive harmonising member states' laws protecting employees if their employers become insolvent.

The directive aims to establish procedures to guarantee that employees' claims for outstanding debts will be met. This guarantee covers part of the period before the employer's insolvency.

Member states have the right to limit, in certain ways, the liability of guarantee institutions. To prevent sums being paid out of proportion to the social objectives of these procedures, member states may also set a ceiling to the guarantee of payment, by reference, for example, to a ceiling for social security schemes or for average industrial earnings.

Member states must lay down detailed rules as may be necessary for organising, financing and operating the guarantee institutions. Employers must, in principle, contribute to financing these, unless they are paid for by the public authorities. Any changes in national law required by the directive must be made within three years. In UK law there is likely to be no change or minimal change needed.

The council welcomed the progress made by Coreper (the permanent representatives committee) concerning the proposal for a regulation on the extension to self-employed workers of regulation 1408/71 on social security for migrant workers.

It discussed the remaining problems concerning this proposal which has wide implications for self-employed workers who, up to now, have not received adequate social security protection at community level.

Despite the progress made, the council did not reach an overall decision. It agreed to resume its discussion of this issue at its next meeting on social affairs, when ministers hoped it would be possible to reach a final decision.

Ministers did not take a definitive decision on the question of exchanges of young workers because it had not received the economic and social committee's opinion. However, they noted that agreement already existed on the setting up of a second joint programme to encourage exchanges of young workers within the community.

The first programme was adopted in 1964, and the new programme attempts by means of new bases and improved arrangements to give momentum to exchanges of young workers in the community.

The scope of the second programme will be greater than that of the first, in particular because of the more varied possibilities for undergoing training periods. There is provision not only for predominantly vocational exchanges – from four to sixteen months – but also for training periods of short duration – from three weeks to three months.

After discussions on improving relations with both sides of industry, the council pointed out that the 12 to 13 March European council had stressed the importance of consulting with both sides of industry at national as well as at community level, and noted with satisfaction the intention of the ministers for labour and social affairs to take the necessary measures to improve the work of the community tripartite meetings. Ministers thanked the commission for forwarding a communication on this matter and noted that any improvements to talks at community level with management and labour should facilitate a more thorough preparation of tripartite meetings, a greater commitment on the part of all parties participating in these meetings, and practical implementation of the conclusions resulting from the tripartite meetings.

They considered that the preliminary dialogue between both sides of industry on the topics to be debated in the tripartite meetings was an essential element in their success, and they instructed Coreper to examine the commission communication in order to finalise, in the light of the discussion at council level and suggestions from both sides of industry, an improved working method for the tripartite meetings which could be brought to the attention of the next meeting of the European council.

On the question of work sharing, the council recalled that the European council, at its meeting on 12 and 13 March, had discussed the employment situation and social policy. In particular, attention had been paid to the problem of work-sharing.

Ministers noted the important contributions made in this area by the standing committee on employment and the tripartite conference. They emphasised the particular attention with which the labour and social affairs ministers of the member states were following the development of this problem at both national and community level. They took note of the commission communication on this subject.

The council considered that the approach to the problem of work-sharing had to take account of the following requirements: the internal and external competitiveness of the community had to be maintained, bearing in mind the situation in the various sectors; proposed measures would not necessarily have an automatic effect on employment but would have to be conceived as accompanying measures forming part of an active employment policy; both sides of industry would have to co-operate closely both in preparing and in implementing any measures relating to working hours. Such co-operation would have to operate at both national and community level and this subject would fall firstly within the sphere of responsibility of those groups on both sides of industry best placed to assess the possibilities and constraints in each sector, and the extent of their respective contributions to the implementation of the measures in question.

The council requested the commission to continue its studies and analyses in this area, and to make proposals taking account of the discussions of the European council and the guidelines indicated by the council at this meeting, with a view to establishing a community framework for work-sharing. These concern in particular: the annual duration of work, the restriction of systematic overtime, the development of vocational training and sandwich course training, flexible retirement arrangements, part-time voluntary work, temporary work, and shift-work. Ministers also asked the commission to make any suitable proposals.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Spain: the promise and the challenge 388

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Temporary suspension of the CCT

The Department of Trade gives notice of a review in the autumn by the EEC commission of suspensions of the CCT (common customs tariff) which will be in force throughout the six months ending 31 December 1979. The suspensions which will operate from 1 July 1979 are not yet finally agreed but are expected to include the items listed below at either a nil or reduced rate of duty. The suspensions will be published in EEC regulations in due course

and a further notice will then be published. Unless any objections are raised it is intended that these suspensions should generally be maintained for a further period ending on 30 June 1980.

CCT heading/Description

03.01 Alb
Salmon , fresh (live or dead), chilled or frozen
ex 03.01 Blh
Cod (*Gadus morrhua* of *Gadus callarias*), fresh, chilled or frozen, whole, headless or in pieces, intended for processing
ex 03.01 Blk
Haddock, fresh, chilled or frozen, hole, headless or in pieces, intended for processing
ex 03.01 Blq
Hake (*Merluccius spp.*), fresh, chilled or frozen, whole, headless or in pieces, intended for processing
ex 03.01 Bila and Blib 1
Fillets of cod (*Gadus morrhua* or *Gadus callarias*), fresh, chilled or frozen, intended for processing
ex 03.01 Bila and Blib 3
Fillets of haddock, fresh, chilled or frozen, intended for processing
ex 03.01 Bila and Blib 7
Fillets of hake (*Merluccius spp.*), fresh, chilled or frozen, intended for processing
ex 03.01 Bila and Blib 7
Fillets of herring, fresh, chilled or frozen, intended for processing
ex 03.02 Ala
Herring, dried, salted or in brine, whole, headless or in pieces
ex 03.02 Alc
Anchovies (*Engraulis spp*), salted or in brine, whole, headless or in pieces in packings of a net capacity of 8 kg or more
ex 03.02 Alld
Fillets of herring, dried, salted or in brine
ex 16.04 B
Salmon, intended for the processing industry for further manufacture into pastes or spreads
ex 16.04 Cll
Spiced and salted herrings, in packings of a net capacity of 10 kg or more
ex 16.04 Cli
'Herring-flaps', prepared or preserved in vinegar, in packings of a net capacity of 10 kg or more
ex 16.05 A
Crabs of the 'King', 'Hanasaki', 'Kegani' and 'Queen' varieties, simply boiled in water and shelled, whether or not frozen, in packings of a net capacity of 2 kg or more, intended for the processing industry
ex 16.10 A
Crabs, excluding the species *Cancer pegarus*, simply boiled in water and shelled, whether or not frozen, in packings of a net capacity of 2 kg or more, for repacking for retail sale
ex 16.05 B
Shrimps and prawns other than than those of the 'Crangon' variety, boiled in water and shelled, whether or not frozen or dried, intended for the industrial manufacture of products falling within heading 16.05
ex 25.19 A
Magnesium oxide, dead-burned, but not fused, of a purity not less than 98 per cent, which may not contain:
a more than 0.05 per cent by weight of boron compounds evaluated as B_2O_3;
b more than 1.25 per cent by weight of calcium compounds evaluated as CaO;
c more than 0.5 per cent by weight of silicon compounds evaluated as SiO_2;
d a total of more than 0.5 per cent by weight of aluminium compounds and iron compounds evaluated as Al_2O_3 and Fe_2O_3
ex 28.21
Chromium dioxide
ex 28.42 AVI
Lithium carbonates other than those meeting the following specification:
in the form of white powder and containing 98.5 per cent or more of Li_2CO_3 and
less than 2 ppm of arsenic
less than 200 ppm of calcium
less than 200 ppm of chlorides
less than 20 ppm of iron
less than 150 ppm of magnesium
less than 20 ppm of heavy metals
less than 300 ppm of potassium
less than 300 ppm of sodium
less than 200 ppm of sulphates
ex 29.09
Epoxyethylbenzene (styrene oxide)
ex 29.13 Gli
1-Chloro-3,3-dimethylbutanone
ex 29.14 Alic 4
11-*beta*,17,20,21-Tetrahydroxypregn-4-en-3-one 21-acetate
ex 29.16 Ali
L-Malic acid and its salts and esters
ex 29.19 C
2,2-bis(chloromethyl)trimethylene tetrakis(2-chloroethyl)bis(phosphate)
ex 29.19 C
Tetrakis(2-chloroethyl) ethylene bis(phosphate)
ex 29.22 Alli
tert-butylamine
ex 29.22 Di
3,5-Dichloroaniline
ex 29.23 E
Levodopa (INN)
ex 29.31 B
Cyclohexanethiol

Greece signs accession treaty

Greek Prime Minister Constantine Caramanlis (centre) signs the document of accession on Monday (28 May) night in Athens as Greece joins the EEC. Left is Greece's foreign minister George Rallis and on the right is Greece's minister to the EEC, George Kondogeorgis (AP Wirephoto).

ex 29.31 B
N,N-diethyl-2-mercaptoethylammonium
ex 29.35 Q
Amprolium (INN) hydrochloride
ex 29.35 Q
2-(4-Pyridyl) ethanesulphonic acid
ex 29.44 C
Cefaclor (INN) and its hydrates, salts and esters
ex 30.01 Bll
Mixture of oestrogens of equine origin
ex 38.19 G
Catalysts, in the form of granules or rings having a diameter of not less than 3 mm and not more than 10 mm, consisting of silver supported on aluminium oxide, the silver content being not less than 10 per cent and not more than 20 per cent by weight
ex 38.19 G
Catalyst consisting of a mixture of oxides on a silicon dioxide support and containing by weight:
a not less than 25 per cent and not more than 40 per cent of Antimony
b not less than 5 per cent and not more than 10 per cent of Iron
c Not less than 0.2 per cent and not more than 1.5 per cent of Molybdenum
d not less than 0.8 per cent and not more than 4.0 per cent of Tellurium
ex 38.19 G
Catalysts in the form of cylindrical grains having a length of not more than 5.0 mm and a diameter of not more than 3.6 mm, consisting of copper dioxide and dichromium trioxide
ex 38.19 G
Catalysts in the form of grains having a diameter of not more than 1.4 mm, consisting of cobalt oxide on a silicon dioxide support
ex 38.19 G
Catalysts in the form of spherical grains with a diameter of not less than 1.4 mm and not more than 1.8 mm consisting of boron trifluoride on an aluminium oxide support
ex 38.19 U
Tetramethylammonium hydroxide dissolved in methanol
ex 38.19 U
Flame-retardant reaction products of acetaldehyde, ethylene oxide and phosphorus trichloride
ex 39.01 Clll
A solution in styrene, of an intermediate unsaturated polyester prepared from monomers which include a brominated monomer, such that the solution contains not less than 30 per cent and not more than 35 per cent of bromine by weight
ex 39.01 CV
Polyurethane reflecting sheeting, even in roll form
ex 39.01 CV
Polyurethane pre-polymers in the forms mentioned in note 3a to chapter 39, containing not less than 3.9 per cent and not more than 4.3 per cent of isocyanate by weight and having a viscosity at 100 C of not less than 500 and not more than 600 centipoises, based on *alpha* (4-hydroxybutyl)-*omega*-hydroxypoly (oxytetra methylene) and 4, 4'-methylene (cyclohexyl) di-isocyanate or methyl-m-phenylene di-isocyanate
ex 39.02 Cll
Microporous polytetrafluoroethylene film, not less than 30 cm in width and weighing not more than 22.4 g/m², whether or not in rolls
ex 39.02 CVIII
Copolymers of vinylidene chloride with vinyl chloride containing not less than 79.5 per cent by weight of vinylidene chloride in one of the forms mentioned in note 3a and b to chapter 39, for the manufacture of fibres, monofil or strip
ex 39.02 CXII
Polyacrylic acid for use as a thickener in textile pigment printing pastes
ex 39.02 CXII
Copolymerisation products of acrylic and methacrylic esters in the form of film of a thickness not less than 50 and not more than 150 micrometres, whether or not in rolls
ex 39.02 CXIVa
Copolymers of ethyl acrylate with chloroethylvinyl ether, in one of the forms mentioned in note 3b to chapter 39
ex 39.02 CXIVa
Polymerisation product of acrylic acid with small quantities of a polyunsaturated monomer intended for use as a thickener for textile pigment printing paste
ex 51.02 Alll
Strip of polytetrafluoroethylene, whether or not in rolls, with an extension at break not exceeding 25 per cent
ex 70.20 B
Yarns of 33 tex or a multiple thereof obtained from continuous spun glass filaments having a diameter of not less than 2.5 and not more than 5.07 micrometres, other than those treated so as to improve their adhesion to elastomers
ex 84.51 A
An electronic pocket communicator for handicapped persons which, by means of push buttons and printing thermic head, prints and issues text on tape
ex 84.55 C
Parts and accessories of electronic pocket communicator for handicapped persons which, by means of push buttons and printing thermic head, prints and issues text on tape
ex 85.21 AV
Digital displays consisting of a glass tube mounted on a board up to 220 mm long and 45 mm wide excluding leads. The tube contains a straight line of digits not less than four in number, each digit consisting of a number of segments containing an inert gas with a metallic base coated with phosphorus salts which give off light when bombarded with electrons
85.21 DII
Digital displays consisting of a printed circuit board of a size not exceeding 35 mm × 90 mm with a single line of digits not less than three in number comprising light-emitting diodes manufactured from gallium-based semiconductor compounds mounted thereon. Each digit is comprised of seven segments plus a decimal point and the line of digits has a protective cover of translucent plastic.
ex 88.05 B
Visual display system generating images by computer intended for equipping flight simulators for civil aircraft

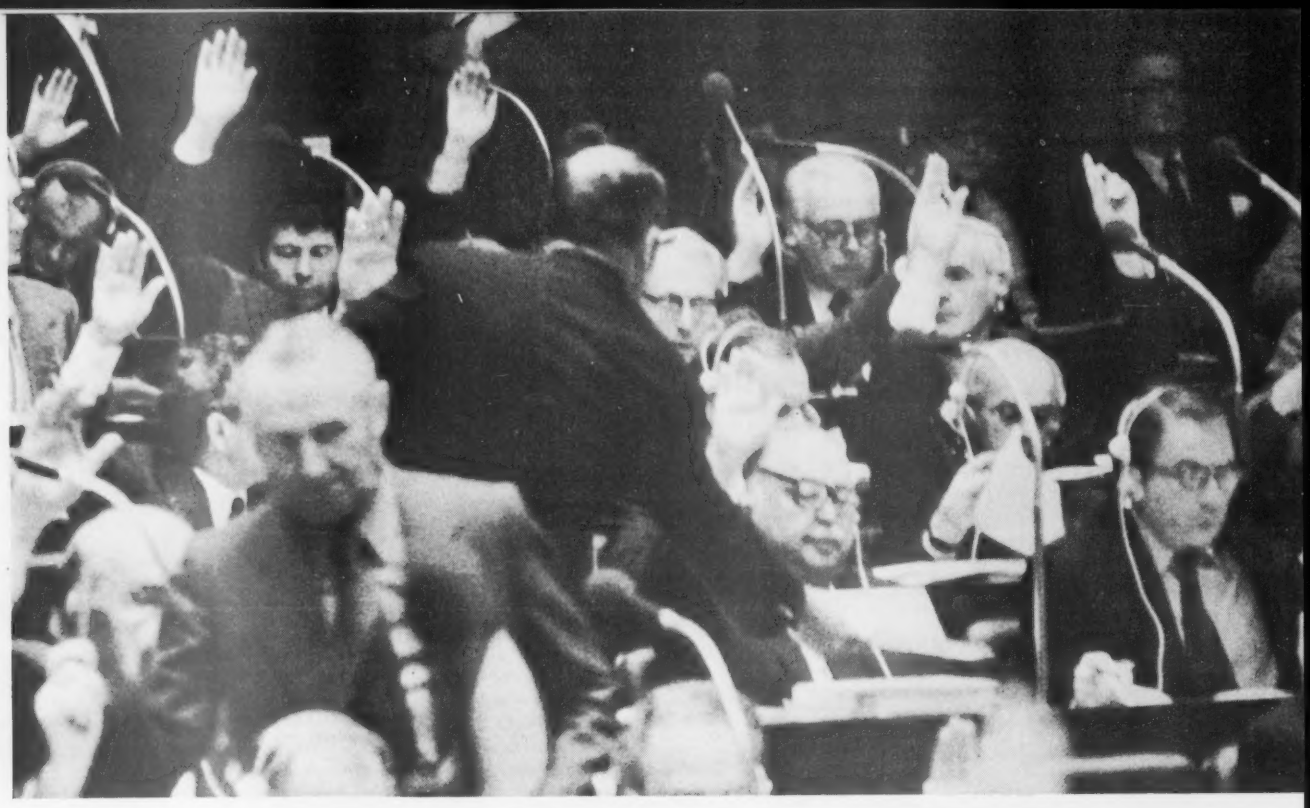
The department will wish to take account of UK interests in making its views known to the EEC before decisions are taken whether to extend the suspensions. UK producers of the goods in question or of like or competing products are entitled to object where they consider that they are able to supply the whole or the greater part of the needs of the community and that their interests would be adversely affected by the loss of protection involved in a suspension of the CCT.

Producers wishing to object to extension of suspension on the goods listed above should provide as much as possible of the following information:

1 estimated community demand (including the UK) in 1980;
2 estimated UK demand in 1980
3 UK production expected to be available in 1980 for:
3.1 the UK market
3.2 the rest of the community
3.3 exports to other countries

Representations should be made in writing to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 436, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET not later than 15 June.

Inquiries: 01-215 3576.



A bigger say in Europe

On 7 June Britain goes to the polls to elect members of the European assembly, which has itself adopted the title of European parliament. Similar elections will be held over 7 to 10 June in all the other EEC member states and the newly elected house will meet for the first time on 17 July in Strasbourg. Jim Hogan explains the extent of parliament's powers and the implications of its first direct elections.

Until now, British interests in the European parliament have been served by a modest number of nominated Westminster MPs, doubling up as MEPs (members of the European parliament) and having to commute between London and Strasbourg or Luxembourg, as well as Brussels, to cover dual responsibilities. In future, the majority of direcly elected MEPs will be devoting their full time to the scrutiny of community business and only a few will retain the dual mandate.

Direct elections forge a link between MEPs and the electorate and, in this sense, parliament will be more representative than before. The number of MEPs will be more than doubled and the moral authority conferred on parliament by elections is seen as an important means of strengthening democratic participation in community affairs.

There is no need to fear that the new parliament will suddenly assume powers it does not have or try to diminish the powers of the national governments of EEC member states. Parliament may well seek ways of increasing its influence over the council of ministers and the commission, the two decision-making institutions in the EEC, but any increase in its formal powers would need an amendment to the treaty of Rome. In the case of the UK, such amendment would require legislation at Westminster. The Direct Elections Act 1978 specifies that 'no treaty, which provides for any increase in the powers of the assembly, shall be ratified by the UK unless it has been approved by an act of parliament'.

Power and influence are, of course, two different things and parliament's influence over the decision-making bodies depends to a large extent on the pressure it can bring to bear. Direct elections will undoubtedly fortify the weight of opinion in the house and provide further impetus to individual MEPs who will be in closer touch with their constituents than before.

Powers

Parliament's powers are carefully defined in the EEC treaties and formal legislative power is confined to financial measures, particularly the budget itself. Here parliament has the last word on non-obligatory expenditure which accounts for about a quarter of total EEC expenditure, though any increase in the amount spent over and above what the commission has recommended can only be agreed jointly with the council of ministers.

Obligatory expenditure accounts for the remaining three-quarters of the budget, mainly the cost of the common agricultural policy, but broadly speaking this is money spent in the application of the EEC treaties. Parliament has very limited control beyond re-apportioning the sums spent within the overall limit, but even then, such modifications have to be approved by the council.

In the last resort, parliament may reject the budget in entirety, though the value of such a move is questionable. In effect, this would merely freeze expenditure at the previous year's level.

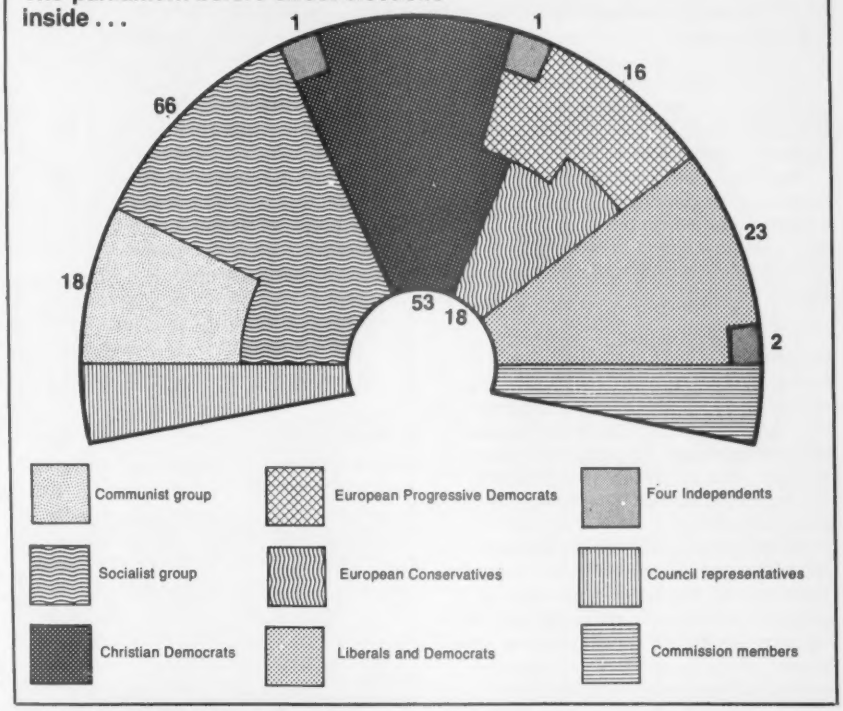
Outside of the budget, parliament's formal powers are limited to delivering opinions, and in many cases the treaties state that the council of ministers may act only after receiving parliament's opinion. It is a

moot point at the moment whether the council can proceed if parliament declines to give an opinion at all.

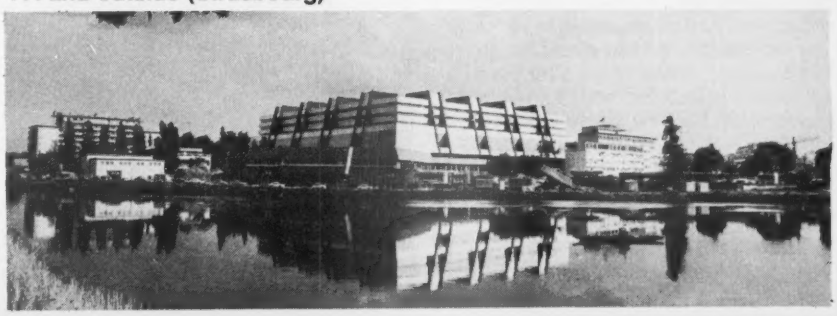
In addition to the right to be consulted, parliament may pass resolutions calling for the commission to take certain action. In the event of serious disagreement with the commission, parliament may pass a vote of censure, in which case the commission must resign. Two previous attempts to dismiss the commission in this way have not actually succeeded, but the fact that both attempts were made quite recently is a sign of parliament's growing strength.

In 1975 the conciliation procedure was established to provide a formal framework for further consultations where parliament and the council of ministers disagree on financial legislation. Although the council still has the last word, this is another sign of stronger parliamentary pressure. Such developments may not amount to very much in terms of positive action, but they are curbs on the powers of the institutions, in accordance with the democratic principles of every member state.

The parliament before direct elections inside . . .



. . . and outside (Strasbourg)



How it works

Not everyone has grasped the concept of a European parliament which is constitutionally different to parliament at Westminster. The principle of democratic control may be the same, but the European parliament does not 'govern' in the same sense. It functions primarily as an advisory body and a forum of debate with neither government nor prime minister to take the lead. Nor does it have powers to raise revenue. Like the British parliament it has the right to question time and may call the commission to question on any proposals.

The usual legislative procedure is complex. First, the commission initiates a proposal. It may do so of its own volition or at the suggestion of parliament. Parliament

will scrutinise the proposal, and will frequently pass it to one of its 12 specialised committees for a report. This report is put to the entire house and any suggestions for amendments will be passed back to the commission. At the same time, the commission will probably have passed the proposal to the council of ministers, but the council is not legally obliged to incorporate parliament's suggested amendments unless the proposal is of a financial nature. Finally, it is up to the council to enact any legislation recommended if it chooses to do so, but only by a unanimous vote. One dissenting minister can prevent the council from passing a new law through lack of political will.

Parliament's task may thus seen a little ambivalent. On the one hand it must respect the council's right not to pass laws which might cut across the national interests of member states. On the other hand, parliament has a duty to see that things get done. At the present time there are hundreds of proposals bottle-necked in the council because of the lack of political will and plain shortage of time. Parliament may feel that some of these proposals are for legislation which is urgently needed in the interests of the community as a whole.

On another level, parliament is there to represent the people of the community. The council of ministers represents the governments of member states. But such different levels of interest in parliament's relationship with the council are the very reason why parliament has had to build up a tradition of co-operation by evolving customary conventions in what is, after all, a common enterprise.

The direct relationship between parliament and the people should even up the balance of power in the community which has, until now, been in favour of official representatives from national governments.

Structure

Parliament is headed by a president and 12 vice-presidents who are chiefly concerned with the internal organisation of parliamentary business. Together they form the 'bureau'. The chairmen of the political groups join forces with the bureau to form an 'enlarged bureau'.

The detailed work of parliament is carried out by the 12 specialised committees who often meet in Brussels rather than Strasbourg or Luxembourg for easier access to the commission. Each committee is a microcosm of the main house reflecting the same proportion of political representation.

There are six political groups and these sit in the house as trans-European political groups rather than according to nationality.

It remains to be seen what changes to this structure will be made after the new parliament is installed. Indeed, one of the first tasks of the new house will be to arrange itself into the persuasive force it needs to be for its five years of office.

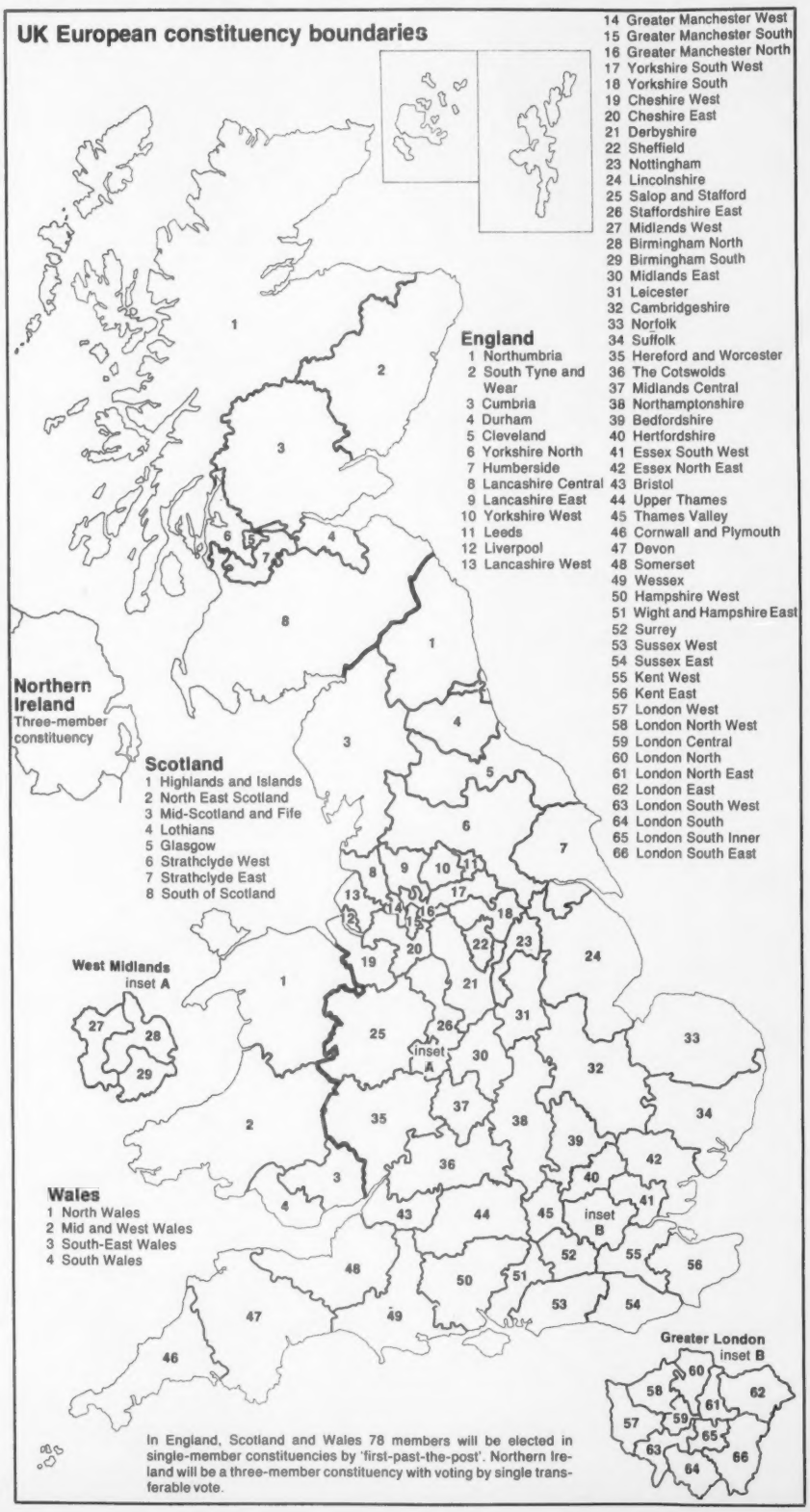
The future

The new parliament will have 410 MEPs, 81 from the UK and Northern Ireland. France, Germany and Italy will also have 81, and the smaller member states proportionately fewer.

A large assembly with a direct mandate from the people will undoubtedly strengthen the weight of opinion in parliament and provide further stimulus for the achievement of the long-term objectives of the EEC treaties.

The fact that parliament's influence has not really been felt by the ordinary citizen is sufficient evidence that a direct vote has come not before time. EEC measures may sometimes be frowned upon as being of purely bureaucratic origin, so it is up to the members of the electorate to make their views known through their MEP.

Whatever the results of the June elections, one thing is certain. An enlarged and strengthened parliament will be installed in Strasbourg and it would be unwise to regard the elections as being of little consequence.



New publications

Business at home

'Starting a small company is a high-risk business – but it can be done.' And to prove it, a new book with just that title, looks at some 20 small business success stories – all firms that have started in the last two decades – and describes how each began and overcome its problems.

The authors point out that many of the companies included tend to be in the field of high technology, and predict that in two or three years time more than 50 per cent of small firms will be in this field. But other companies are also covered, producing goods as diverse as foods, baby buggies, and windows.

In his foreword the author, John Ryan, sets out what he considers is required for success in establishing a small business: the need for business acumen; preference for having at least one partner; the need for courage and stamina; and the realistic possibility of profits of £1 million plus. The preface emphasises the importance of the new small business to a thriving economy, and describes government incentives, listing sources of help.

As the authors suggest, 'nothing can take the place of confidence, courage and stamina', but examples of other people's success stories are a welcome complement to the many 'how to do it' manuals for small business that are already on the market.

It can be done, by John Ryan. Scope Books. Available from Technical Press Ltd, Freeland, Oxford OX7 2AP. 1979. Hardback £4.95 (ISBN 0 906619 00 9); paperback £2.75 (ISBN 0 906619 01 7).

The legal aspects

For the average layman, the subject of law is usually regarded with a certain amount of foreboding. Not least so in the business world, where so often legislation is part and parcel of a variety of transactions. For some basic guidance on the various areas of law that may be encountered, a new series, in handy paperback form, has recently been published by Sweet and Maxwell.

'Essential business law', presented and packaged in a popular style, is intended 'to help people to understand the rules that govern their work and to help them make better business decisions as a result of that greater understanding'. The first six books in the series have recently been published and a further six titles are in preparation to cover a variety of business topics.

Peter Smith's book 'Law and the legal system' acts as a general introduction to the series and explains how the English legal system works, with emphasis on aspects concerning trade and industry. Paul Dobson's book 'Consumer Credit' explains the effects of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 and the law surrounding the forming, enforcing and ending of credit agreements.

Two books deal with aspects of company law: 'Company finance, takeovers and mergers' by Geoffrey Morse explains the legal framework and requirements surrounding the financing of companies and the means by which takeovers and mergers may be affected; and 'Company insolvency' by John Farrar attempts to provide the reader with a proper perspective on what happens when a company fails. Matters dealt with include the causes of business failure, bankruptcy, winding up, receivers, creditors and the handling of company assets. Proposals for the reform of the law on insolvency are also given an airing.

'Leasing of business premises' by David Yates explains the relative merits of renting or buying. Topics covered include the legal protection of business tenants and the powers, rights and duties of landlords. There is also a discussion of the effects of law and taxation on rent, rent renewal and rent review.

'Insurance' by John Birds attempts to give a simple explanation of the language and technicalities of insurance in order to assist, in particular, those businessmen involved in making or disputing a claim.

The books are, for the most part, easily readable. Although they are no substitute for professional legal advice they should be of considerable value to businessmen confronted with legal problems.

Essential business law. General editor: Maurice Kay. Sweet and Maxwell, 1979:

Company finance, takeovers and mergers, by Geoffrey Morse £1.25 (ISBN 0 421 25010 0)

Company insolvency, by John Farrar. £1.25 (ISBN 0 421 24670 7).

Consumer credit, by Paul Dobson. £1.25 (ISBN 0 421 24670 7).

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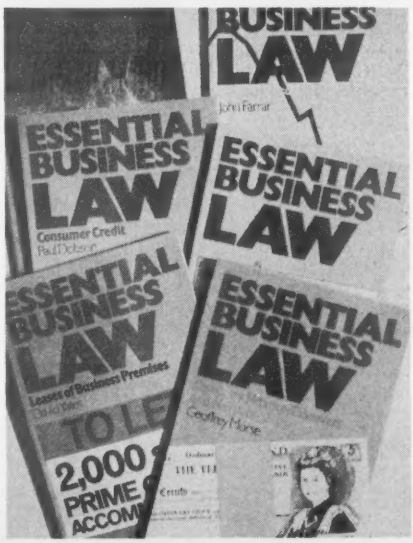

And business overseas: Bahrain . . .

An addition to the growing number of directories covering Middle East countries is the recently published second edition of the 'Bahrain business directory'. It clearly demonstrates the diversity of activity now present in this small but important market.

The much revised and enlarged directory has been compiled and published in Bahrain by Zenj Public Relations and endorsed by the Minister of Commerce and Agriculture and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It provides, in three languages – English, French and Arabic – basic background information on the Bahrain economy, useful addresses and travel information and lists of domestic companies and agents for foreign companies classified into over 1050 types of business activity. A separately indexed English-language advertisement section is also usefully included.

Although it lists major companies in Bahrain, the directory is not fully comprehensive and the information may to some extent be supplemented by using regional directories for more detailed company information, as well as unlisted companies.

Despite some limitations, the detail of product classification, degree of comprehensiveness, and compilation of information about a small market into one specialised volume should make this directly a valuable aid to those with an interest in Bahrain.

Bahrain business directory. 2nd edition. Compiled and published by Zenj Public Relations; available from Bahrain Business Directory, Colombia House, 69 Aldwych, London WC2B 4DX. 1979. 592 pages. £29.95.

United States

Since 1973 there has been a dramatic increase in foreign direct investment in the United States, amounting to a growth of about 10 per cent a year. According to estimates by the US Commerce Department, total foreign direct investment in the United States amounted to approximately $33 billion in 1977, compared with $7 billion in 1960 – so publication of a new guide explaining the many opportunities for investment is well-timed.

Aimed at businessmen and their legal and financial advisers, it is intended to alert executives to potential problems and prospects, rather than to provide an exhaustive study of United States trade legislation. Among topics covered in some detail are securities and anti-trust – both areas where United States legislation is more intrusive than UK businessmen may expect. Also covered is a subject of some concern to UK exporters – that of consumer protection, particularly product liability laws which vary from state to state and which are often more rigorous than in the UK.

Some of the data – for example that on taxation and investment incentives – will naturally date quite quickly. But the book provides a foundation for detailed analysis of business opportunities in the United States, and should prove particularly useful to UK companies thinking about doing business there for the first time.

Doing business in the United States – an executive's guide, by R. Starr and R. Donin. Oyez. 1979. vii, 169 pages. £15.00 (ISBN 0 85120 384 1).

Overseas trade news

Energy ministers agree to reduce demand

International Energy Agency (IEA) countries are to reduce their demand for oil on world markets by about two million barrels a day or by 5 per cent. Ministers attending the 21 and 22 May meeting of the agency confirmed this decision.

Discussions had concentrated on the grave outlook for oil supplies and prices, energy secretary David Howell told the House of Commons in a written reply on 23 May.

Ministers had decided they would take immediate and effective measures to achieve this reduction and that they would pay particular attention to stock levels. Ministers had demanded that restraint measures should be continued into 1980 and the IEA should undertake an analysis of the workings of the oil, and particularly, of the spot markets, he said.

On medium and long-term energy prospects, ministers had concluded that, without further action, available energy supplies would be insufficient to support even moderate economic growth. Consequently, Mr Howell said, greater efforts had to be made in energy conservation, coal, nuclear, and natural gas use, and in new and renewable energy sources. Ministers had adopted the principles for IEA action on coal and had decided on procedures for reviewing IEA countries' coal policies.

ECGD gives backing for £3m Yugoslavia loan

Repayment of a £3 million line of credit which Lazard Brothers has made available to Stopanska Banka Skopje, Yugoslavia, has been guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The loan will help finance UK capital goods and associated services contracts placed in the UK by Yugoslav buyers. UK exporters will receive 85 per cent of the contract price from the loan; the remaining 15 per cent is payable from the buyers' own resources. To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £150,000 and be placed by May next year.

Exporters requiring further details of this facility should contact either Mr D. De Silva of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699 ext. 7575) or Mr J. Hilleard of Lazard Brothers (tel. 01-588 2721).

Prime Minister meets Japanese foreign minister

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher with Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda at Downing Street on 21 May. Mr Sonoda visited the UK as part of his tour of a number of European countries in preparation for this month's Tokyo economic summit. While in the UK he also met foreign secretary Lord Carrington and Peter Blaker, Minister of State at the FCO responsible for Asia.

Chicago assignments for British manufacturers

A group of 22 British companies presenting a large selection of equipment ranging from stereo components to electronic digital clocks will take part in the consumer electronics show in Chicago from 3 to 6 June. The group will be supported by the British Overseas Trade Board and sponsored by the Federation of British Audio.

Many new products will be introduced to the United States market. Among them will be a hand-built stereo power amplifier, a two-drive unit monitor speaker, turntables, synthesisers, loudspeakers, a broadcast console, a stereo magnetic cartridge and accessories.

Plastics event

The BOTB will also be supporting 12 firms at Chicago's national plastic exposition from 18 to 22 June and the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce will sponsor the joint venture. The show is held every three years and is visited by end-users such as manufacturers in the automotive, furniture, construction and packaging industries.

This is the second time that a joint venture has been arranged at this event and all but one of the British exhibitors will be newcomers. They will promote a wide range of machines and materials including hot plate welding machinery, moulds, presses, vacuum forming machines, sheet plastic materials and bag making machines.

Latest British transport technology on show in Hamburg

Britain's latest transport technology will be on show at the international transport exhibition which will be held in Hamburg from 8 June to 1 July. Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, will tour the British stands on British national day, 11 June. The British display is organised by the British Overseas Trade Board in co-operation with the Department of Transport and will include contributions from 20 companies.

British Rail and its subsidiary companies will be strongly featured with particular emphasis placed upon the advanced passenger train. There will also be displays and presentations on other forms of transport, including a model of Concorde and ancillary products such as traffic control systems, air-conditioning units, compressors, road signs and electronic equipment.

The exhibition will attract visitors from all over the world and is expected to be of special interest for third world countries.

London gets new Imco headquarters

The foundation stone of the new headquarters of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (Imco) was laid by the Duke of Edinburgh on 23 May. Imco is the only United Nations' organisation to have its headquarters in the UK.

Imco's secretary-general Mr C .P. Srivastava said that over the last few years Imco's responsibilities had grown so rapidly and that the organisation was so short of space that the secretariat was in three different buildings, and major conferences had to be held in other centres. He said the completion of the new headquarters, scheduled for the end of 1981, would enable Imco to be under one roof for the first time for many years.

The new building is being provided by the Property Services Agency (PSA) and is sited on London's Albert Embankment, south of Lambeth Bridge. A contract worth £17 million for the construction of the headquarters has been awarded by the PSA to Kyle Stewart which started work on the site in October 1978.

The building will have a gross floor area of about 21 000 m² and will be made up of a four-storey block fronting the Albert Embankment, a main nine-storey spine block running parallel to the river and a seven-storey block to the rear of the development. A two-storey conference hall with a main auditorium seating up to 650 people and balcony accomodation for translators, press and visitors is to be built on the east of the site.

The foundation stone enclosed a cylinder containing items associated with Imco, including the names and flags of Imco's 112 member states; a list of Imco conventions; a copy of the secretary-general's world maritime day message underlining safe shipping and cleaner oceans; the first issue of the organisation's magazine *Imco News*, and various other items.

The Duke of Edinburgh lays the foundation stone.

Imco: what it is

Imco began in 1948 when the United Nations' conference at Geneva adopted a convention establishing the organisation with the aim of promoting internationally-acceptable measures designed to improve maritime safety. The convention came into force in 1958 and the Imco assembly met for the first time in January 1959.

The task that Imco faced was to introduce new legislation and to amend and up-date existing regulations and, starting in 1960, Imco arranged a conference to adopt a new convention on the safety of life at sea (replacing a convention adopted in 1948).

The promotion of maritime safety has remained the organisation's chief concern, and conventions have been adopted dealing with subjects as load lines (1966), tonnage measurement (1969), collision prevention (1972), the safety of containers (1972), the safety of life at sea (1974), the establishment of an international maritime satellite organisation (1976), the safety of fishing vessels (1977), training, certification and watch-keeping of seafarers (1978) and search and rescue operations (1979).

Since 1959 other problems have developed and been referred to Imco for action. Perhaps the most important of these is the growing threat of pollution to the maritime environment. A convention designed to reduce pollution of the sea by oil was adopted in 1954 and amended in 1962.

But following the *Torrey Canyon* incident Imco adopted a number of conventions dealing with the legal aspects of marine pollution – including such matters as civil liability for oil pollution damage, the rights of states to intervene on the high seas in cases involving oil pollution, and increased compensation for the victims of oil pollution.

Imco also assists governments through a technical assistance programme which now operates in more than 70 different countries. The aim of this programme is to help countries who lack resources and expertise to adopt and enforce the high standards contained in Imco legislation so maintaining and raising the generally high standard which already prevail in the world merchant marine.

We've moved

Our new address is:

Trade and Industry
Eleventh Floor
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QU

Telex 918829 answer back MBTWR G

Editorial inquiries 01-211 6088/6188/6177

The address of the advertisement department will remain unchanged.

Soviet trade minister in London

The Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade, Nikolai Patolichev, visited London from 20 to 25 May at the invitation of John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade.

Mr Patolichev's visit had been planned to coincide with the opening of the Soviet national exhibition at Earl's Court on May 23. During his visit Mr Patolichev discussed bilateral trade and economic matters with Mr Nott and met British businessmen involved in east-west trade.

Studies in official statistics no. 31

Regional accounts

This booklet, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, describes the data sources and methods used in estimating gross domestic product, personal incomes and components of final expenditure for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the eight economic planning regions of England. A Continental Shelf region is also distinguished; this includes the profits of the UK offshore oil and gas activity. Certain of the estimates are further subdivided within the South East region to distinguish the Greater London area.

The booklet provides an essential background for regional economists and others concerned with the interpretation of the published data in the regional accounts. The concepts adopted for the individual items within the accounts and the limitations of the data and methods used to produce the estimates are fully discussed.

Price £1.75 net (£1.90 by post). ISBN 0 11 630161 9

First south-east seminar on south-east Asia

South-east Asia is looking for a third option to its traditional trading partners, Japan and the United States. It is a demanding customer but very stimulating to deal with so the UK must perform well. The point was emphasised by Guy Checketts, chairman of the south-east Asia trade advisory group (Seatag) and deputy chairman and managing director of Hawker Siddeley International, in a speech to a Thames Valley seminar on 24 May.

The seminar 'South-east Asia, your multi-million market' was one of a series being arranged by Seatag around the country, and it was the first in south-east England.

In his review of the work of Seatag, Mr Checketts placed emphasis on the market analysis unit which is examining statistics to identify where Britain's major industrial competitors in south-east Asia are doing better than the UK – and why. He stressed that Britain should not relax its efforts to export manufactured goods, something which could only become more difficult as the pound strengthened.

Emphasising the importance of establishing a regional marketing organisation, David Charlesworth, managing director of Simon – PM Holdings, said it was often not good enough just to have an agent in a region. The next step was a small regional marketing operation, even one man in one of the agent's offices, but this need not be the prerogative of the larger company. 'The regional office is a starting point which can be afforded by smaller organisations'.

Dr Bill Pritchard of Halewood Chemicals, Staines, spoke on direct exporting to south-east Asia and Robin Cotton, a Seatag member and senior executive of Metal Box (Overseas) Ltd, presented a case study on overseas investment and local manufacture. An analysis of the political situation in south-east Asia was given by Murray Simons, a Seatag member and head of the south-east Asia department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Over 180 delegates from business and industry attended the seminar which was chaired by Peter Maclean, president of the South Bucks and East Berks Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Hong Kong section's annual meeting

The Hong Kong section of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be holding its annual general meeting on 14 June at 1200 hours.

Two speakers have been invited and, following the close of formal business, they will focus on Hong Kong which has recently become a major centre for the expansion of trade with China.

The speakers are Denis Bray, commissioner for Hong Kong in London who will talk on 'Hong Kong: current situation' and Derek March, Senior Trade Commissioner, Hong Kong, on 'Hong Kong as a market and entrepôt for British exporters'.

Further information can be obtained from Diana Wright, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB tel. 01-248 4444.

Disclosure of import information being considered

Consideration is being given, under Section 10 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, to the disclosure of information on the following goods:

SITC(R2) trade description	Code no
736.19	
Grinding machines other than automated by coded information	
For cylindrical surfaces	8445 5800
Other –	
Other than thread and gear grinding machines	8445 5999

The government is consulting the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 6–14 Dean Farrar Street, London SW1H 0DX, on these proposals and the association will take into account any views recieved from importers by 22 June 1979.

Inquiries may be addressed to Economics and Statistics Division 5 Branch B2, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5770.

ECGD cover for overseas fairs

As a supplement to the ordinary insurance policy exporters have with Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), cover is available for goods exhibited at fairs overseas against the rather special risks involved.

The standard cover includes sales at overseas fairs
Sales made at overseas fairs are covered under the standard ECGD policy against eventualities of loss, such as the insolvency of the buyer or his default, or exchange difficulties preventing transfer of payment from the buyer's country.

Special cover
Under a special policy supplementary to an exporter's main policy, ECGD can cover also the risks of loss arising while the goods are being exhibited or are on their way to be exhibited.
The risks covered are loss caused by destruction or damage resulting from war (including 'civil war, hostilities, rebellion and insurrection') occuring in the country where the goods are being exhibited or in a country through which the goods are travelling on their way to be exhibited,
or war between any of the countries involved,
or the requisition or confiscation of the goods in these countries,
or any measure or decision in the country where the goods are exhibited which prevents their re-export to the UK.
For more information about this special cover, get in touch with the nearest regional office of ECGD.

ECGD's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2. There are regional offices in:

Central London 01-437 2292 **North London** 01-808 4570 **South London** 01-686 9921 **Belfast** Belfast 31743 **Birmingham** 021-233 1771 **Bristol** Bristol 299971 **Cambridge** Cambridge 68801 **Glasgow** 041-332 8707 **Leeds** Leeds 450631 **Manchester** 061-228 3621.

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We can afford to do all that because luxury costs so little in Cyprus. What's more, we and the Cyprus Tourism Organisation feel it's a well worthwhile investment because – once you've seen the beauty of our island and tasted the pleasures to be enjoyed there – you will want to come back with us for a longer stay.

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Overseas trade
export services

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

New overseas business publication launched

To assist companies to make overseas trading contacts quickly, easily and economically, a new publication, *Import/Export Opportunities Digest*, has been launched.

The *Digest* offers a monthly list of overseas businesses seeking trading relationships with British counterparts with an outline of the proposition and the contact details.

To ensure that the *Digest*, which is available on subscription only (first year rate £21), contains only current and active leads, the publishers say it is compiled from sources such as the commercial sections of embassies and high commissions, national trade centres, and chambers of commerce.

Further information: circle 441

Pan opens Greek service

Pan Express has entered the Greek market with overland services to all major destinations – and the essence of the operation, according to the company, will be speed.

Pan points out that while groupage operations to Greece from Britain were fairly advanced, hauliers had rarely taken the market seriously, leaving exporters open to heavy competition from the continent where better delivery times could be offered. The company is now offering a premium service to Greece in the region of four to five days.

A fleet of Scania tractor units pulling 12 m trailers and a team of employee drivers provides the muscle behind the new service for groupage and full loads. Pan's correspondents in Greece are Anglo Greek Transport based in Piraeus.

Further information: circle 442

Euroshuttle extends to Dublin

Carryfast International, the European express groupage operator, is now offering its guaranteed departure, Euroshuttle service from three UK destinations to Dublin, providing a daily service for UK exporters.

With at least two independent departures a week from its Droitwich, Stockport and Heathrow depots, Carryfast says a daily service is ensured by use of the overnight, 'trunking' service which takes place between all of Carryfast's 15 UK depots.

Carryfast's daily service from the UK is supported by 'clearance on wheels' in Dublin. This means that exports departing on day one can be delivered within Dublin's city limits on day two.

Carryfast International also operates regular and economy services between Ireland and the UK, and Euroshuttle is now available to Bologna, The Hague and Copenhagen.

Further information: circle 443

More traffic on Lep's Northern Italy service

Lep Transport Bradford reports a marked increase in traffic being carried over its road/trailer/groupage service to the wool and textile areas of Biella and Prato in northern Italy.

The service which has been in operation for over a year now, offers estimated transit times from Lep Depot Bradford of three days to both Biella and Prato.

Further information: circle 444

Arabic magazine goes bi-monthly

A magazine, printed in Arabic, promoting British goods in the Middle East, will go bi-monthly in June. The magazine, *Made in Britain for the Arab World* – from the Dominion Press, started as a twice-yearly A5 handbook for businessmen and quickly evolved into A4 magazine format, published quarterly.

More than 20 000 copies of each issue are now distributed in 18 Arab countries.

Further information: circle 445

Tours to Frankfurt show

Lunn Poly has arranged special visitor trips to the Frankfurt motor show, to be held from 13 to 23 September, providing accommodation close to the exhibition site.

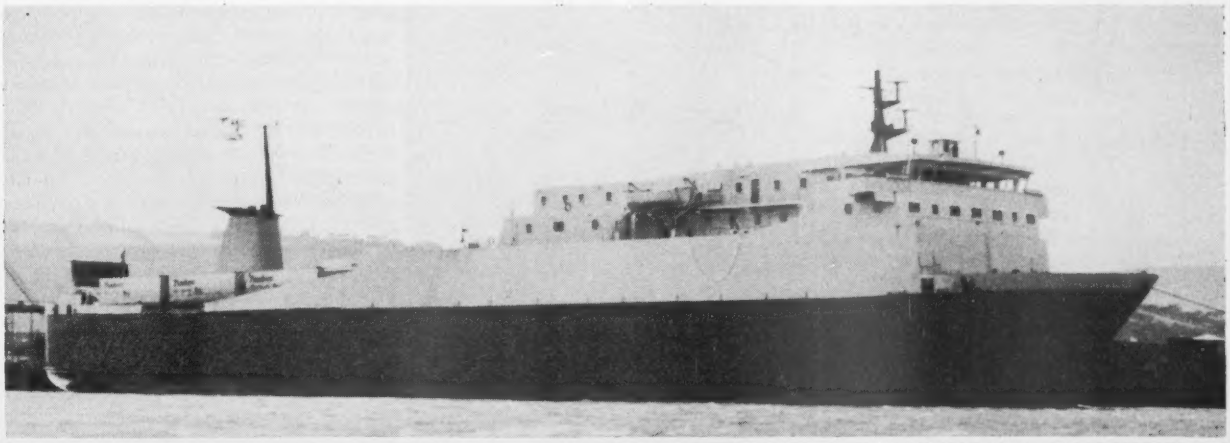
Prices for the tours, based on a two-night stay, are Excelsior Hotel £107 twin, £137 single; Arabella Hotel £112 twin, £150 single.

Travel is by scheduled flights from London Heathrow.

Further information: circle 446

Big lift for traffic on Irish Sea crossings

The 110-trailer capacity *Union Melbourne* seen at Larne on Pandoro's twice-daily ferry service to and from Fleetwood. Availability of two vessels on this service – the other is the 90-trailer *Bison* – and night crossings in each direction have been important factors in the growth of Pandoro's quay-to-quay traffic. Private hauliers accounted for 26 000 of the 93 000 Pandoro loads transiting through Fleetwood last year – an increase of 50 per cent of quay-to-quay traffic over the previous year.



The promise and the challenge

Recent substantial reductions in import duties and the liberalisation of a wide variety of goods formerly on quota have opened up exciting new opportunities for British exporters in Spain. Spain's coming membership of the EEC will bring new, even greater opportunities. Alan Hunt, first secretary commercial at the British embassy in Madrid, examines the prospects and urges British exporters to take a fresh look at the possibilities.

Negotiations for Spain's accession to the EEC formally opened in Brussels on 5 February this year. Substantive negotiations are to begin in the autumn and, on reasonable expectations, Spain will be a full member of the community by 1983 with a transitional period for the more difficult items on either side likely to bring full application to Spain of the treaty of Rome by the end of the 1980s. What is the significance of these developments for British exporters and what should they be doing to ensure that they do not miss the new opportunities which will become available?

Imports into the Spanish market have traditionally been controlled by a wide variety of measures designed to protect domestic industry which have not surprisingly tended to deter the foreign exporter. There is a complicated quota system and in some cases extremely high tariffs (but recent measures, described below, have substantially reduced both of these) which are supplemented by special taxes, notably home compensation and luxury tax, and legislation favouring official purchase of Spanish over imported equipment. By the time Spain is applying the full provisions of the treaty of Rome this apparatus of controls will have been totally dismantled.

But this does not mean that British exporters to Spain must wait until the end of the 1980s before new and interesting opportunities become available. Already EEC member countries enjoy substantial advantages over others in their trade with Spain by virtue of the terms of the 1970 EEC-Spain agreement which has applied to Anglo-Spanish trade since mid-1977. The agreement grants preferential duties – reductions in the range of 25 to 60 per cent – on some four-fifths of products traded between the community and Spain. And with full EEC membership now an early prospect the Spanish government is only too conscious of the need to embark upon the process of liberalisation as soon as possible to ease the problems of transition to a free-trading regime.

Import duty reductions

In July last year temporary import duty reductions were introduced and a number of products hitherto subject to global quota were temporarily placed in the liberalised category. These included a number of foods and raw materials, perfumeries, re-constituted wooden building material, various iron and steel articles, internal combustion engines, certain pumps, certain radio and television transmission equipment, and certain tractors and specialised vehicles.

But in April and May this year the Spanish government introduced further measures which put these earlier moves in the shade. Import duties were reduced across the board on a progressive basis so that the highest duties were reduced the most; take for example the basic import duty of 53 per cent on motor cycles (for EEC countries 40 per cent), which was reduced to 38 per cent (for EEC countries 28 per cent). Perhaps even more important quotas were lifted from a long list of products, where good prospects are seen for UK companies: motor vehicles, beer, gin, certain cotton textiles, some foundation garments, tableware and similar high-quality ceramic products, gold, silver and silver-plated goods, imitation jewellery, certain jewellery, toys, parlour games, hand tools, saw-blades, domestic radio and black-and-white television receivers, magnetic and video tape recorders, record players and other sound reproduction equipment, specialised paints and chemicals for use in the plastics industry.

These measures were described as temporary but are in line with the government's policy to move towards liberalisation and are unlikely to be reversed. And this is really only the beginning. Spanish government sources estimate that by the time of accession probably only between 1 and 2 per cent of EEC-Spain trade will still be subject to quota and there will be a clear timetable for removing the remaining quotas and bringing down the tariffs during the transitional period agreed.

The market

To set these developments in context we should consider for a moment the importance of the Spanish market to UK exporters.

We are talking of a country of over 37 million people with a gdp in 1978 of well over £60 billion (the eighth highest within OECD). The import market is already worth more than £10,000 million, of which the UK currently enjoys a market share of some 5½ per cent. But some of our major industrial competitors are doing much better: the United States share is 13 per cent, the Germans have 10 per cent and the French 9 per cent.

Spain, like all industrialised countries, was badly hit by the oil crisis of 1973 and her formidable growth rate of the 1960s and early 1970s has slowed appreciably (a rate of 4 to 4½ per cent is forecast for 1979). This has been clearly reflected in the slowing in the growth of the import market which, following devaluation in mid-1977, did not increase appreciably in sterling terms in 1978 and may not do so this year. But with completion of the general and municipal elections and a reasonable expectation of political stability in the coming four years, Spain's investors must soon be looking seriously at new investment which is badly needed after the relative stagnation of the last two to three years. And the government, which has enjoyed substantial success in reducing inflation and turning the balance of payments current account from deficit into surplus, will be obliged by the growing problem of unemployment to apply selective stimulus in the public sector. Major projects in the energy sector and a degree of re-structuring in the steel industry are among the schemes until now held up by preoccupations with Spain's political development. So, irrespective of the special opportunities to be derived from Spain's coming EEC membership, this is

El Corte Inglés, one of Spain's two major department store chains which is holding a major promotion of British goods in the autumn.

clearly the moment for UK companies to be taking a hard look at their prospects in Spain.

The best immediate opportunities lie in those areas where Spanish manufacturing capacity is still deficient. These are inevitably at the more sophisticated end of the scale in products involving advanced technology. In general terms, the best prospects for UK exporters are seen to be in agricultural equipment, especially automated farm equipment, pollution control, medical, scientific, optical measuring and control, communications and security equipment, steel-making plant, mining machinery, offshore oil, gas and petrochemical equipment, food and drink machinery, computers (hardware and software), electronic components and in general engineering equipment.

The long term

The prospects for the longer term are much wider as the barriers protecting Spanish industry come down in the context of Spain's membership of the EEC. In the consumer field in particular UK companies already do well despite existing barriers in high quality foods, beverages, furniture and clothing, and there will be substantial new opportunities with EEC membership. And it is in the consumer field that recent liberalisations, mentioned earlier, will have the major impact.

The liberalisation of trade will of course not be a one-way street. Anglo-Spanish trade is already more or less in balance and although agricultural produce is still the largest single element of Spain's exports to the UK, the traditional view of Spain as a largely agricultural country is now very outdated. Of Spain's current exports to the UK nearly two-thirds fall into the general category of manufactured goods and the removal of barriers will mean not only more cheap Spanish food for the housewife but also an increase in Spanish manufactured goods, particularly in such sectors as the electro-domestic market where Spanish products already have little difficulty in competing despite existing tariffs.

Perhaps more to the point, the adoption by Spain of the EEC's common external tariff will mean a reduction in the barriers to exports from major industrial competitors such as the United States and Japan. So there will be a challenge as well as a promise; and British companies must not expect opportunities to drop automatically into their laps.

Exploiting the opportunities

What should UK companies be doing to exploit the existing and future opportunities of the Spanish market?

This article points only to general opportunities with selected illustrations of obvious areas of promise. Companies are strongly urged to look carefully at the market themselves in the light of their individual interests. As a general rule if they are to sell well they must also have good representatives and be prepared to correspond in Spanish. A visit to the market to establish personal contact is indispensable for the serious exporter.

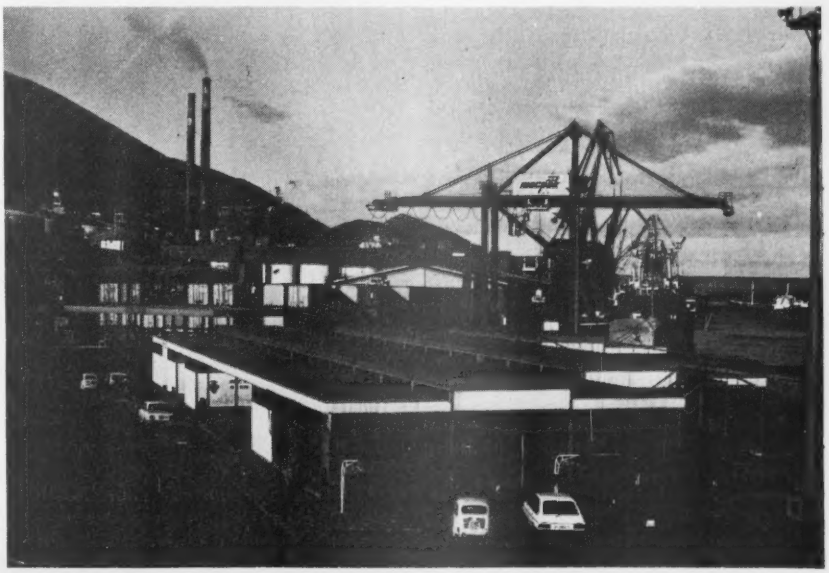
Given the rapid advance of Spanish industry in the last 20 years and the still relatively low labour costs – although the gap is rapidly narrowing – companies will also need to consider carefully the desirability of local manufacture. In the past this has been necessary because of the existence of protective measures but even when Spain's membership of the EEC becomes a reality there may well still be advantages of geography and economy in local manufacture.

Trade promotion services

The official trade promotion services can help companies interested in exporting to Spain by providing general market information and a preliminary view of prospects for the company's products – a general pointer to the possibilities. Detailed market research is obviously the responsibility of the company itself.

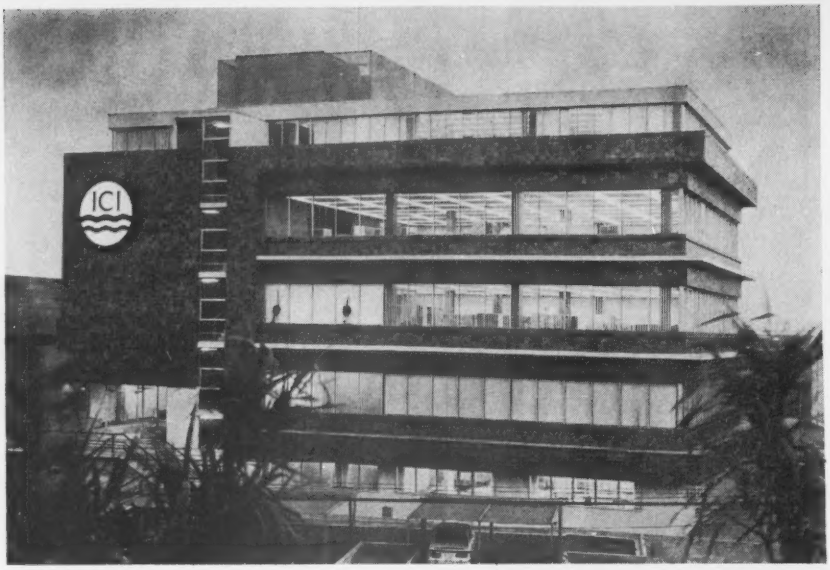
A good deal of general information is readily

MacAndrews' roll-on/roll-off facilities at Bilbao, opened in 1978.



available in general export services branch of the Department of Trade in London. Where DoT lacks the answers, these can be obtained from commercial posts in Spain. The official services are able to help companies find local representatives and the embassy and consulates can facilitate introductions to the Spanish authorities and to business contacts. They can also point new companies in the market towards sources of legal and other professional advice to help them through the thicket of laws and regulations which at present still regulate business activity in Spain. And firms should remember that the embassy welcomes the use of its facilities, which include a cinema and a reception area, for presentations by individual companies seeking to promote their goods in Spain.

Companies interested in learning more about doing business in Spain are invited to get in touch in the first instance with the general export services branch of the Department of Trade at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, telex 886143 a/b DTIEXPORT LDN).



ICI's Spanish offices.

Overseas trade exhibitions

More business is prognosis from Interhospital

From G. M. Rogers, British consulate-general, Düsseldorf

For the third time the Düsseldorf Trade Fair Centre was the scene of the largest hospital exhibition in the world. Interhospital, held from 15 to 18 May, attracted 851 exhibitors of which 160 came from abroad.

The largest foreign contingents came from the United States with 50 firms, followed by the UK with 35, and Switzerland with 12.

Exhibitors also came from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Irish Republic, Israel, Japan, Lichtenstein, the Netherlands, Sweden and Spain. The exhibition was sponsored by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsches Krankenhaus (ADK) which also organised the tenth German hospital meeting under the title 'Your hospital 1979'.

Interhospital was opened by the German chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, who emphasised in particular the need for more humanity in the hospital treatment of patients.

The UK, with the second largest joint venture, had 26 firms in three halls as well as an information stand manned by the sponsors, the British Health-Care Export Council. The joint venture, co-sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, was also actively supported by the British consulate-general, Düsseldorf.

The British firms were more than satisfied with the interest shown in their products which ranged from surgical instruments, disposables, and orthopaedic implements, to floor-cleaning machines, hospital beds and operating tables. Inquiries were received from all over the world, the visitors representing potential customers and agents, hospital executives, physicians, nurses and administrators.

A very satisfied firm was Autovalet International, which displayed two automatic uniform dispenser machines and succeeded in selling one of them for £10,000 to a local hospital. Cripps Medical equipment did exceedingly well with its disposables as did Seton with its surgical dressings. Nomeq sold rehabilitation products for £6,000. Smith Bros (Whitehaven) spoke of immense business potential as a result of the fair. Colgate Medical considered the quality of international buyers and agents to have been very high.

There were also nine independent British firms, showing partly as direct exhibitors or on their German subsidiary or agent's stand. They, too, were delighted with the fair, especially ICL Medishield Corporation, Leyland Medical International, and Dickinson Robinson. For the majority of British firms, Interhospital was a means to provide support and stimulation for local German agents and a venue for a large number of overseas distributors. All firms expect substantial follow up business from the exhibition.

Interhospital certainly compared favourably with any similar exhibition in the world and was larger than the previous exhibition in Hanover in 1977. A high percentage of the 75 000 visitors undoubtedly came from the 3500 German hospitals which represent an annual spending volume of 34 billion marks of which 10 billion marks is accounted for by day-to-day material supplies alone.

Each year some 10.7 million patients are being cared for and the total number of beds is estimated at 718 000. Also the German hospitals belong to the largest employers with 702 000 employees, of which the largest group is that of the nursing staff with 250 000, followed by 63 000 physicians. There are about 118 beds per 10 000 inhabitants putting Germany in fifth place internationally.

The British firms represented a fair cross-section of British industry. It was a pity that more did not take part since Interhospital should be regarded as a must for any firm seriously interested in expanding exports of hospital medical equipment, supplies and services.

Many of the joint venture firms have already said that they will be exhibiting again at the next Interhospital which will be held in Munich from 19 to 22 May 1981.

UK businessmen going overseas

British businessmen intending to travel overseas are urged in their own interests to make the earliest possible contact, before going abroad, with the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade (at the appropriate regional office for firms outside London, and Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU for firms in London and south-east England). The department, in co-operation with commercial officers at embassies, high commissions and consulates overseas, is in a position to provide advice when it is required, and to help, where appropriate, in making trade contacts related to the purpose of the visit. Even where a businessman does not require specific assistance it is valuable for him to meet the commercial officers to get up-to-date information about the market. The Department of Trade would therefore welcome receiving notification of any businessmen intending to travel overseas.

To enable the overseas commercial officers to be of the greatest assistance to UK visitors the department needs to be able to brief the overseas officers as fully as possible.

Compec: up to expectations for UK exhibitors

From P. H. Williams, British embassy, Brussels

Billed as the premier European exhibition devoted to computers, peripherals and systems, Compec came for the fourth time to the Centre Rogier in Brussels from 8 to 10 May and lived up to expectations.

Sponsored by Iliffe Publications, Compec grows in importance year-by-year as more and more firms exhibit. This year the number of firms taking part was up by 20 per cent on last year, with increased participation of United States and West German companies. The importance of Compec has not been missed by UK manufacturers; every year there has been a joint-venture and this year was no exception. As usual it was sponsored by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the British Overseas Trade Board with 25 British firms took part.

Compete effectively

British manufacturers can compete effectively in the small systems market as was clearly shown by their products on display. Alphameric Keyboards claimed to have designed the world's first LSI/MOS chip for capacitive keyboards and attracted a lot of interest with practical demonstrations of the reliability and strength of its products. Fungus had one of the largest stands on the joint venture and showed a selection of terminals, disk storage units, magnetic tape storage units, MOS memories and printers. Lion Systems Developments, specialists in the manufacture of communication products including data concentrators, telegraphic convertors and line-sharing units, had an interesting display centred round its on-line teller terminal which can make life very much easier for bank clerks.

Computer Marketing, showing computers and terminals as well as a self-study course based on the 808A microprocessor in a complete software/hardware system, was well satisfied by the orders generated at the exhibition and is likely to have found an agent for Belgium.

First time and happy

Mastiff Security Systems demonstrated its access control systems; this was its first time in a computer exhibition and the company was very happy with the results. Quest Automation was inundated with potential buyers interested in its Datapad systems where an untrained operator can capture and validate handwritten data at the time of recording. Many companies like Fungus and the National Computing Centre took the opportunity of bringing over to Brussels their German, Dutch, and French agents.

This was a successful exhibition for the British manufacturers; it generated new orders and impressed potential buyers with the dynamism of the British firms involved in this sector of the market.

A UK exhibitor at Compec.

UK dominates at Sitev

From Shirley Parkes, British consulate-general, Geneva

Britain's national display dominated the main hall of the sixth international exhibition for the suppliers to the vehicle industry (Sitev) held in Geneva from 15 to 18 May. This year's exhibition was bigger than ever with 1200 groups of products on show in comparison with 700 in 1978, and an estimated 18 000 trade visitors (10 000 in 1978).

The joint venture, sponsored by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the British Overseas Trade Board, embraced 68 firms. The products shown varied from sophisticated mechanical components to body parts, radiator shells, suspension units and safety belts. With one or two exceptions, all the British exhibitors agreed that this year's Sitev had been a great success.

It had provided a meeting place for the European motor industry enabling the component suppliers to make new contacts or consolidate their relationship with previous customers. Few firm orders were reported, but this is inevitable in an industry where business takes anything up to two years to mature.

But good inquiries were recorded by most companies with opportunities for potential follow-up after the show.

The automobile industry was well represented; 35 firms had set up contact offices. These included, for the first time, buyers from the British motor industry, including Jaguar, Rover, Triumph and JCB Excavators Ltd. It is the presence of these contact offices which gives Sitev its special character and enhances its interest to the component industry.

As in previous years the exhibition offered a good cross-section of component manufacturers from all over Europe, with France and the UK being particularly well represented. There was, however, a noticeable dearth of German participants. The UK had about 100 firms, including both those participating in the British joint-venture and independent exhibitors.

There were also national stands from Sweden, Norway, Portugal, Yugoslavia, Italy and, for the first time, Austria.

Sitev has now established itself as the main European show place for the original equipment automobile component industry and will be of increasing importance to British manufacturers. The next event is scheduled for 20 to 30 May 1980, again in Geneva.

Timing just right for machine tool exhibition

The British Machine Tool Exhibition Korea was opened on 21 May by Prime Minister of Korea Choi Kyu Hah.

John Halbert, president of the Machine Tool Trades Association, who was present at the exhibition, said that he thought recent statements by leading Korean politicians about the need to upgrade the quality of production in their metal industries provided just the right opportunity for the British machine tool industry through its participation in the exhibition.

Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Import tariff reduction. The Ministry of Economy has, by resolution 493, lowered the import tariffs of some 1221 capital equipment items. Of these 1221 items some 1098 are boilers, machines and other mechanical appliances, 120 electrical equipment, machines and parts for electronic industry, and three covering mechanical-handling equipment and loaders. The items affected by this tariff reduction were previously included in the sliding scale tariff reduction that was to end in 1984 with a maximum tariff of between 20 and 27 per cent *ad valorem*. This sliding scale has been abandoned for these 1221 items and the end tariff tariff ratings applied from now.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474.

Chile

Automobile law. This notice gives more information on facts published in *Trade and Industry* 4 May.

1. Consumer tax percentages

The consumer tax percentages will be reduced as follows:

From May 1979 to 31 March 1980	100%
From 1 April 1980 to 30 September 1980	95%
From 1 October 1980 to 31 March 1981	90%
From 1 April 1981 to 30 September 1981	85%
From 1 October 1981 to 31 March 1982	80%
From 1 April 1982 to 30 September 1982	75%
From 1 October 1982 to 31 March 1983	70%
From 1 April 1983 to 30 September 1983	65%
From 1 October 1983 onwards	60%

The ceiling of US$12,000 will be updated once a year on 1 July (instead of 1 March as previously indicated).

The Inland Revenue, when implementing this consumer tax, will take the works cost multiplied by the following factors in the periods indicated:

From May 1979 to June 1980	3.6
From 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1982	3.4
From 1 July 1982 onwards	3.0

2. Import duties

A summary of import duties which will apply on motor vehicles is as follows:

Per cent

	1979	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
1 Saloon cars and passenger/cargo carrying vehicles (up to 850 cc)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2 Saloon cars and passenger vehicles up to 15 seats (exceeding 850 cc)	90	80	70	60	50	30	20	10
3 Vehicles similar to 2 (above) four wheel drive except 'jeep' type	90	80	70	60	50	30	20	10
4 Vehicles similar to 'jeep' four wheel drive (exceeding 850 cc	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
5 Cargo vehicles up to 1.672 tonnes carrying capacity (exceeding 850 cc)	65	65	60	60	50	30	20	10
6 Trucks, loading capacity ranging from 1.672 to 5 tonnes	45	35	30	25	20	10	10	10
7 Trucks, lorries, articulated trucks over 5 tonnes loading capacity and passenger vehicles over 15 seats	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Notes

Any saloon car and/or station wagon falling in capacity 1 (see above) which as a result of landed cost is subject to the consumer tax, will attract duties indicated in category 2 instead of the 10 per cent indicated. In principle, estate vans and similar vehicles exceeding 850 cc are included in category 2. However, provided a prior statement is obtained, from the Inland Revenue Director, such vehicles would attract duties indicated in category 5.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Import formalities eased. A Ministry of Interior decree 2,345, published in the *Official Gazette*, 6 April, gives details of administrative procedures about imports which can now be completed after clearance of the goods through customs.

This decree, although issued as a result of de-restriction policies, has a direct connection with foreign trade operations as it removes or eases a series of non-tariff barriers to trade which demanded the completion of formalities such as approval certificates, sanitation documents (in the case of food products and live animals) etc.

Details of which documentary requirements are still valid are not yet available, but it is clear that they compel the importer to observe them before he can gain free access to the goods. It is understood that the payment/remittance procedure will not be affected by delays caused in producing all the papers required.

Decree 2,345 requires the Chilean Ministry of Finance to produce the implementation notes within 30 days.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel. direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757. In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Malaysia

Import duty change. The Malaysian government has, from 12 April, amended the first schedule to the Customs Duties Order 1978, so that it now reads as follows:

Heading no./Description	Unit of quantity	Import duty Full	Import duty Pref.
34.03 Lubricating preparations, and preparations, of a kind used for oil or grease treatment of textiles, leather or other materials, but not including preparations containing 70 per cent or more by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals			
900 Other	kg	20 sen	

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/468/401.

Mexico

Tariff amendments. A decree published in Mexico's *Diario Oficial*, 6 April, has made amendments to duties and/or to the wording of sub-headings in the Mexican import tariff. The main headings affected are as follows:

08.12, 13.03, 25.07, 25.15, 26.01, 27.07, 28.03, 28.22, 28.35, 28.39, 28.42, 29.14, 29.24, 31.02, 35.03, 36.01, 37.02, 38.01, 38.19, 39.01, 40.11, 48.07, 49.04, 51.01, 70.21, 73.03, 73.05, 73.13, 73.15, 74.03, 76.03, 84.06, 84.10, 84.11, 84.17, 84.22, 84.25, 84.29, 84.59, 85.08, 85.12, 85.15, 87.06, 87.07, 90.01, 90.05, 90.06, 90.07, 90.09, 90.10, 92.12, 92.13, 98.07

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Netherlands

Preserved vegetables. A decree dated 29 March, 'Staatsblad' 219, published on 3 May, established the preserved vegetables decree (commodity law).

The decree enters into force from the fourth calendar month following date of publication in the 'Staatsblad'. Copies of the decree (in Dutch) are available and an English translation should be available shortly.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Senegal

Tariff and tax reductions. The National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal passed law 79-18 on 24 January 1979 to reduce import duties and taxes as follows on certain products listed under the tariff numbers listed below:

Revenue duty – 15 per cent; standard tax – 22 per cent; turnover – 13.5 per cent.

Ex 13.02.10 – Shellac in flake form; ex 13.02.40 – wood resin; ex 13.03.30 – Prisulon R. 35; Maypro GUN CRX; Polyprint A 231 MV; ex 25.22.01 – Powdered lime; ex 22.08.20 – Ethyl alcohol of a strength of 93 per cent; ex 28.21.00 – Chromic acid flakes; ex 28.25.00 – Titanium oxide; ex 28.30.00 – Iron perchloride; ex 28.31.00 – Sodium chlorite DER 809; ex 28.36.00 – Sodium sulphite flakes; Sodium hydrosulphite 88/90 per cent; ex 28.38.00 – Copper suphate; ex 28.40.00 – Polyron T; ex 28.54.00 – Hydrogen peroxide; ex 29.02.00 – Perchlorethylene; Reserve salt, extra fine; ex 29.04.00 – Afrogene as.Conc.; ex 29.14.00 – Idalca PA 16; Sodium acetate; Formic acid; ex 29.19.00 – Etingal A; 29.22.00 – Solid orange base GC; ex 29.25.00 Naphtol AS; 29.28.00 – Yellow salt in solid form; ex

32.05.01 – Black sulphanol SE 1750 (1); Procion (all colours); Vitexol PFA; Leucophor BLC liquid; Orange and black reagent HGB B; Neopralave in red, green, blue and yellow; ex 32.05.40 – natural indigo 60 per cent granulated; ex 32.07.10 – Titanium oxide 45; ex 34.02.10 – Viscavin CA Spez; Powdered Hostapon T; Mensitol 800 AD; Serdas G1N; Subitol MEZ N; Lavotan DS; Cotavan CBS; Liguid Mercerol AW; Emugator W; Ofuapon ASN; ex 34.03.90 – Kettenol; ex 37.08.00 – Green lacquer 1878; Hardeners (all types); Texol emulsion 45 SCR 55 SCR 51; Adhesive L 20; ex 38.08.00 – Colophane 4 AM; Uraprint 61503; Lutexol HED; ex 38.12.00 – Helizarien S-TT-TS; Polyprint multus; ex 33.19.90 – Powdered fixogen CD (oxygen fixative); ex 38.01.92 – Araldite AW 106 and LY 554; ex 39.02.91 – Yellow luminous Diazo; Dye fixative; Unisol; Perol 30/70; Kallotex DD; Solidokoll N 80 FWMG; ex 39.06.00 – Dialgin NMV and HV; Manutex FX; Solvitose H; ex 54.05.21 – Lanping chain Ramie; ex 55.09.01 – Reinforced unbleached raw cotton 80 cm; ex 55.09.02 – Reinforced unbleached raw cotton; ex 56.07.41 – Raw unbleached Polyster/cotton fabrics; ex 56.07.91 – Raw unbleached staple fibre. Raw unbleached cotton is exempt from all duties and taxes (ex means part of).

A further decree will follow to determine terms of application, but no further information is available at present.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472.

Solomon Islands

Revaluation. On 18 May the Solomon Islands dollar was revalued by 5 per cent against the Australian dollar. The new rate is SI$1 = A$1.05.

The aim of the revaluation is to restore the fall in purchasing power of the SI dollar against other major trading currencies.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list 17/79, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 25 May, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Pneumatic tyres and tyre cases, classifiable under tariff sub-headings 40.11.70.30 and 40.11.70.40.
2 Aluminium sulphate, classifiable under tariff subheading 28.38.10.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Sweden

Coffee prices. The Swedish authorities have introduced a price freeze on coffee from 11 May. No further information is available at present.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 459.

United States

Speedometers and odometers. In response to petitions for reconsideration of the federal motor vehicle safety standard no. 127 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration published a final rule on 22 March granting several of the aspects of the petitions.

In particular the requirement that odometers be irreversible has been amended and a greater lead time has been allowed before the provision comes into force. The new rule also amends provisions relating to the graduations on the dials of speedometers, by removing the need for such graduations to not vary by more than 10 per cent.

The various provisions enter into force between 1 September 1979 and 1 September 1981.

Vehicle safety and fuel economy. The *Federal Register*, 26 April, published a revised plan for motor vehicle safety and fuel economy rule-making by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The plan updates that published in March 1978 and describes proposed rule-making priorities and actions, including deferred or terminated actions. It will permit manufacturers to anticipate NHTSA priorities.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456.

OTAR: help for exporters

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 can give you directly, or through your regional office, up-to-date information on the tariffs and customs regulations of overseas countries, import licensing regulations and restrictions including import quotas; certificate of origin; consular invoices and fees; labelling and marking requirements; and regulations on foodstuffs, drugs and pharmaceuticals, agency legislation setting up of a subsidiary company and the import of samples. It also provides information, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on health regulations for livestock, meat, animal products and plants and seeds. In short, OTAR can help on almost all legislation which affects the entry of British goods into overseas countries.

Inquiries which concern the countries of more than one sub-section (excluding inquiries involving only EEC countries) should be made to OTAR's co-ordination sub-section of 01-248 5757 extension 452 or 454.

For information on specific countries, phone the number and extension given below

01-248 5757

extension

Sub-section A
1 Co-ordination of EEC regulations requirements and common customs tariff (CCT), Denmark, France incl. overseas territories, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus

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423 France and French overseas departments, French overseas territories, Comoros
439 Greece (incl. Dodecanese Islands), Turkey, Cyprus

2 Benelux, Dutch overseas territories, Irish Republic, Italy, Federal Republic of Germany

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466 *Italy, Irish Republic*
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Sub-section B
Efta countries, Spain, Gibraltar, Malta, Israel, Macao

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460 Portugal, Finland, Iceland, Macao
461 Spain, Canary Islands, Andorra

Sub-section C
1 North America, Bahamas, Bermuda, West Indies

455 Canada
456 USA (incl. Alaska, Caroline Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Samoa (US), Virgin Islands (US), Wake Island)
7312 Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts/Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands

2 South and central America

474 Argentina, British Antarctic Territories and Antarctica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Falkland Islands, Haiti, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela
476 Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama

Sub-section D
Africa

462 Algeria, Ceuta and Melilla, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Western Sahara
471 Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Jibuti (Djibouti), Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Islands, Sao Tome/Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa (with Botswana, Lesotho, SW Africa Namibia and Swaziland), Zambia, British Indian Ocean Territory
472 Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Empire, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Upper Volta, Zaire
473 The Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone

Sub-section E
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401 New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, W. Samoa, Chatham Islands, Cook Islands, Niue Islands, Tokelau Islands, Philippines
468 *Australia, Solomon Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island (Indian Ocean), Nauru, New Hebrides, Papua New Guinea, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, USSR, China, Mongolia, Yugoslavia*
469 Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, Gilbert Islands (incl. Ocean Island, Phoenix and Northern Line Islands), Tuvalu, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island

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420 Afghanistan, Burma, India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea Democratic Peoples Republic, Korea Republic of Taiwan, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen Peoples Democratic Republic
475 Iraq, Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia), Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Vietnam Socialist Republic of, Bahrain, Iran, Oman, Qatar, Syria, United Arab Emirates
7062 Bangladesh, Jordan, Maldives, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators[1]

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers'	Retailers'	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1975 prices		at 1975 prices			at 1975 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1975											
Series in		£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
Stock level at end-1977						34,469	19,995	4,540	3,181			
1973	103.3	65 586	21 609	3 504	4 674	2 983	1 336	432	624	−999	−2 383	1 384
1974	101.4	64 212	21 173	3 822	4 605	1 462	1 288	361	−180	−3 591	−5 235	1 644
1975	100.0	63 385	20 536	3 522	3 841	−1 625	−1 221	−249	−100	−1 843	−3 236	1 393
1976	102.9	63 540	20 395	3 345	3 926	260	316	131	13	−1 137	−3 601	2 464
1977	104.9	62 954	19 961	3 573	4 325	978	442	256	29	298	−1 744	2 042
1978	108.1	66 397	20 514	3 856	4 677	962	597	− 6	333	254	−1 175	1 429
1976 3rd qtr	103.3	15 934	5 177	849	1 005	163	99	81	46	−411	−1 136	725
4th qtr	104.2	16 007	4 955	856	1 014	259	280	17	27	−315	−966	651
1977 1st qtr	103.8	15 622	4 821	851	1 030	430	235	82	117	−428	−946	518
2nd qtr	104.5	15 551	5 010	879	1 044	293	97	179	4	−297	−779	482
3rd qtr	105.0	15 876	5 057	910	1 103	−70	−6	−80	−59	522	−3	525
4th qtr	106.5	15 905	5 073	932	1 149	325	116	85	−33	501	−16	517
1978 1st qtr	105.9	16 296	5 151	923	1 162	291	38	81	62	−341	−596	255
2nd qtr	108.4	16 487	5 161	963	1 174	280	272	−62	128	146	−173	319
3rd qtr	109.2	16 858	5 147	982	1 162	302	175	45	54	51	−367	418
4th qtr	108.8	16 756	5 055	988	1 179	89	112	−59	89	398	−39	437
1979 1st qtr		16 944 pe		948	1 214		33 p	76 p	87 p			
% change last 2 qtrs on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.7	+1.1	−1.1	−0.5	+2.4							
on a year earlier	+3.1	+4.7	+0.7	+4.4	+3.5							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and earnings					Labour (UK)			Visible trade (volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Average gross earnings of all employees (GB, all industries and services covered)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payment basis	
	at 1975 prices		at 1971 prices		(not seasonally adjusted)				(old series)				at 1975 prices	
Base of index	1975	1975	1971		Jan. 1974		1975	1975	Jan. 1970				1975	1975
£m in base year			16,296										19,463	22,699
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands		
1973	109.5	108.3	110.3	137.1	93.5	9.1	58.8	66.7	152.1	611.0	2.6	307.0	97.7	108.8
1974	105.1	106.5	109.0	102.8	108.5	16.0	86.8	81.8	179.1	599.7[a]	2.6[a]	301.6[a]	104.2	109.7
1975	100.0	100.0	106.7	97.2	134.8	24.2	100.0	100.0	226.6	929.1	3.9	148.0[a]	100.0	100.0
1976	102.0	101.4	106.5	104.7	157.1	16.5	127.0	117.3	261.8	1 269.3[a]	5.3[a]	119.7[a]	109.7	105.6
1977	105.8	102.8	103.6	107.1	182.0	15.8	145.6	140.5	288.5	1 378.0	5.7	155.8[a]	118.9	107.2
1978	109.8	103.6	109.2	130.1	197.1	8.3	144.6	153.3	330.2	1 376.5	5.7	210.4	122.9	112.6
1977 1st qtr	105.6	103.9	103.3	102	174.1	16.5	144.8	133.0	280.2	1 333.3	5.5	..	115.9	108.8
2nd qtr	105.5	102.4	102.4	104	181.9	17.4	148.8	139.6	284.4	1 353.4	5.6	154.3	117.7	110.6
3rd qtr	106.2	103.0	104.2	110	184.7	16.5	146.5	143.8	289.1	1 403.1	5.8	153.7	124.6	107.3
4th qtr	105.8	101.8	104.7	113	187.4	13.1	142.2	145.8	300.3	1 422.2	5.9	163.6	117.3	102.3
1978 1st qtr	107.0	102.2	106.4	128	190.6	9.5	140.2	149.2	310.9	1 415.7	5.9	185.9	119.6	113.5
2nd qtr	110.8	104.5	107.9	133	195.8	7.7	146.3	151.8	327.8	1 388.6	5.7	206.3	122.2	109.7
3rd qtr	111.5	105.2	110.7	133	199.2	7.8	144.9	154.8	335.7	1 367.9	5.7	215.2	124.8	114.9
4th qtr	109.8	102.6	111.7	127	202.6	8.1	147.1	157.3	346.4	1 333.7	5.5	234.2	124.8	112.3
1979 1st qtr	108.2 p	101.0 p	110.3	131	208.9	9.6	152.1 p	161.6 p	356.1 p	1 356.7	5.6	232.6		
1978 Apr	111.1	105.1	106.9	130	194.6	7.9	145.1	150.9	324.1	1 403.0	5.8	199.8	124.3	104.8
May	110.1	103.5	108.2	127	196.7	7.7	146.8	151.9	326.2	1 384.8	5.7	205.6	120.5	113.3
Jun	111.1	105.0	108.6	142	197.2	7.4	147.0	152.7	333.0	1 378.1	5.7	213.4	121.9	111.1
Jul	111.7	105.2	111.0	111	198.1	7.8	145.8	153.8	333.2	1 370.2	5.7	211.1	125.7	114.3
Aug	112.2	106.0	111.7	142	199.4	8.0	144.2	154.8	334.7	1 373.4	5.7	211.8	124.5	111.3
Sep	110.8	104.4	109.6	144	200.2	7.8	144.8	155.7	339.2	1 360.2	5.6	222.8	124.3	119.1
Oct	108.5	101.8	110.2	133	201.1	7.8	145.7	156.6	344.5	1 349.9	5.6	231.8	125.9	110.8
Nov	109.6	102.6	110.5	126	202.5	8.1	147.3	157.1	344.5	1 331.7	5.5	234.9	122.5	113.7
Dec	111.2	103.6	113.8	121	204.2	8.4	148.3	158.3	350.1	1 319.6	5.5	235.9	126.0	112.5
1979 Jan	102.6	93.0	109.6	121	207.2	9.3	150.8	160.0	344.7	1 342.1	5.6	235.7	113.1	107.3
Feb	110.4	103.8	110.4	117	208.9	9.6	152.0	161.7	355.6	1 366.5	5.7	228.9		
Mar	111.5 p	106.2 p	110.8	156	210.6	9.8	153.3 p	163.1 p	368.0 p	1 361.5	5.6	233.1		
Apr			114½ p	158	214.2	10.1	157.6 p	165.3 p		1 327.4	5.5	245.3		
May										1 306.7 p	5.4 p	257.3 p		
% change latest 3 months														
on prev. 3 months	−1.4	−1.6	+0.3	+17.1	+3.2		+3.7	+3.1	+2.8	−0.8		+5.0	−3½	−2
on a year earlier	+1.1	−1.2	+4.6	+8.8	+9.8		+8.7	+8.9	+14.5	−4.8		+23.1	+5	+5½

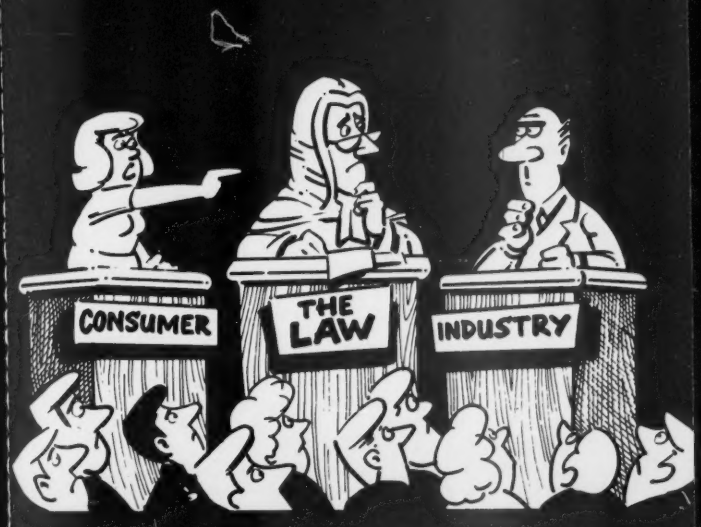
p Provisional. e Estimate. pe Second preliminary estimate. [1] Including figures published on or before 1 June 1979. [a] Average of available months.

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

SENIOR EXECUTIVE BRIEFINGS
Division of THE BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL

"The vulnerability of the seller, be he retailer or manufacturer will doubtless be greatly increased with the coming legislation on product liability. Only vigorous commitment at board level can lessen the threat of massive claims. Top management must be prepared."

James Tye, Director General
British Safety Council



Product Liability
"LET THE SELLER BEWARE!"

London Hilton Hotel
Park Lane, London W.1

31st July, 1979 — London

PRODUCT LIABILITY
and associated legislation

A Senior Executive Briefing

Venue: **London Hilton Hotel**

Date: **31st July, 1979**

Introduction

I am staggered to find in this country the enormous number of senior managers involved in the production and supply of goods, who are still greatly confused by the various civil and criminal laws relating to product and consumer safety.

Indeed a recent British Safety Council survey revealed that everyone from the insurer who commits himself to underwrite any losses, to the lawyer who takes the case to court, is it seems, well versed in most aspects of Product Liability.

Everyone that is, except those who are likely to be most dramatically affected – manufacturers and retailers.

Nobody in Britain wants a re-run of the American experience where strict liability already operates. It would be no exaggeration to say that litigation has run riot there. The so-called Product Liability Crisis has bankrupted many small businesses who have not been able to afford the massive rises in insurance cover.

What everyone does want is to stay **out** of the law courts, and this can only be achieved if British Industry commits itself at **board level.**

There will be no Product Liability Crisis in this country unless top executives fail to meet the challenge. Ninety-five per cent of claims I see around the world need never occur. Where they do occur invariably it is because of inadequate Product Safety Programmes.

The particular vulnerability of the seller, producers and retailers alike, can only be lessened by top management commitment to effective product safety systems and contingency planning.

During this conference delegates will be briefed on the proposed law on Product Liability and the existing Consumer Safety Act and the Unfair Contract Terms Act. Our purpose is not to interpret these Acts in detail, but to explain to executives the linking of these laws and the implications to manufacturers, retailers and suppliers of products.

In 1979 the law implies – **Let the Seller Beware!**

Who should attend this conference?

I strongly urge Directors and Senior Level managers in **manufacturing, distributing** and **retail** industries to attend.

Emphasis will be on delegate participation which requires places to be limited, so early booking is advisable.

JAMES TYE
Director General, British Safety Council

SPEAKERS:

James Tye is Director General of the British Safety Council and this country's foremost authority on Product Liability. His latest book, **The Management Guide to Product Liability,** co-authored by Bowes Egan, has been reviewed as "the most comprehensive book on the subject yet released in this country". Mr Tye uses over one hundred slides in his presentation and encourages questions at all stages.

David Burrows is Director of Harris & Dixon, Lloyds Brokers, and has been associated for many years with the British Safety Council. His relaxed approach to the subject allows delegates to see the problems – and myths – surrounding insurance in the area of Product Liability in the right perspective.

PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

08.45 Registration and coffee

09.15 **SESSION ONE**
Product Liability

Speaker: James Tye

- Definition of Product Liability
- i.e. implied warranty; express warranty; duty of care
- U.K. and U.S. examples
- i.e. DC10 crash; Thalidomide; Ortho-Novum; Ford Pinto; Firestone
- Recent cases – verdicts and costs, i.e.
  - defective design, punitive damages
  - criminal indictment

10.15 **COFFEE**

10.30 **SESSION TWO**

- Proposed U.K. Product Liability legislation
- Visual briefing of the EEC Directive
- Explanatory memorandum

11.30 **SESSION THREE**
A practical approach to Product Safety

- Building an effective Product Safety Programme
- The British Safety Council's 40 point check list
- How to measure management involvement in the Product Safety Programme
- How to use the TEPLAS system (TEPLAS = Tye/Egan Product Liability Audit System)

12.30 **LUNCH**

14.00 **SESSION FOUR**
The Insurance Dilemma

Speaker: David Burrows

- Insurance market reaction to the EEC proposals
- The effect of the purchase of Product Liability insurance
- Courses of action: i.e. avoidance; reduction; retention of risk
- The insurance problems in exporting to U.S. and Canada
- Estimating indemnity limits
- Territorial limits and jurisdiction clauses
- Third party indemnity
- Recall cover

15.15 **TEA**

15.30 **SESSION FIVE**
Consumer Safety Act 1978

Speaker: James Tye

- Background to the Act
- Molony Report on Consumer Protection
- Consumer Protection Acts
- A visual briefing of the Act itself
- Safety Regulations
- Prohibition Orders
- Enforcement and Penalties
- Implications for industry

16.15 **SESSION SIX**
Unfair Contract Terms Act

- In February 1978 this Act unobtrusively appeared on the Statute book. In spite of its cumbersome title, it has the effect of preventing manufacturers and proprietors from disclaiming liability or responsibility for faulty products and unsafe services. It is impossible to divorce this law from the proposed legislation on Product Liability.

16.45 General Discussion

17.00 Close of Conference

REGISTRATION FORM SEB 109

SENIOR EXECUTIVE BRIEFINGS

PRODUCT LIABILITY
"Let the Seller Beware"

31st July 1979
at the LONDON HILTON HOTEL
PARK LANE, LONDON W 1

Conference Fee £70 + VAT at standard rate
(includes lunch, cocktails, conference literature, plus complimentary copy of "The Management Guide to Product Liability" by James Tye and Bowes Egan.)

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In the event of cancellation the fee, less 20% to cover administration costs, will be returned, but only if more than seven days notice is given. In the event of lesser notice or non-attendance, the full fee will be payable. The right is reserved to make changes to the conference when this is necessitated by conditions outside the control of B.S.C.

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BUSINESS BOOKS

THE ART OF INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION

F. POSSES

Title: **The Art of International Negotiation**
Author: FREDERICK POSSES, JD
ISBN: 0 220 66315 7
Price: £7.95 net (208 pp; 216 x 138mm)

about the book

Written by a US attorney and counsellor-at-law, this book aims to provide an appreciation of international negotiations for those who have had little experience conducting business abroad.

Negotiation should be understood as a highly personal art which has to be cultivated and refined. There can be no cut and dried rules in an activity which is not concerned entirely with pure facts. International negotiation is particularly difficult—each country has its own culture, business environment and goals, and there are a variety of techniques from which to choose, but practice and preparation are essential.

This book aims to assist the choice of technique at any given moment and to show when to change tack or alter course while in the process of negotiating. Such flexibility is in itself a skill as all bargaining situations are different and equally unpredictable.

The author draws on his own experience for the hypotheses and examples given as a lead to the inexperienced negotiator.

about the author

DR FREDERICK POSSES is an American lawyer currently engaged in the trial and appeal of commercial and general law practice in America with offices in New York. He also acts as a Consultant in American Law in London. As legal counsel, technical adviser and arbitrator, he has handled some 2000 commercial and industrial arbitrations.

Dr Posses graduated from the Brooklyn Law School of Saint Lawrence University, and holds the degree Juris Doctor. He also studied at the University of Alabama, University of Pennsylvania and the University of London.

Dr Posses is admitted to practice before the Bars of the Supreme Court of the United States (Washington), the United States Circuit Courts of Appeals (New York and Philadelphia), the United States District Courts (Southern and Eastern Districts of New York) and the State of New York. In addition to his legal practice, he is a frequent lecturer in London on the subject of this book and other related topics.

The author is a member of the American Bar Association, the International Bar Association, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the National Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association (Commercial Tribunal), and other professional associations.

Published by: BUSINESS BOOKS LIMITED
24 Highbury Crescent
London
N5 1RX
Reg. No 1200665 England

Contents

Preface

Chapters

1 **What internationality implies**—an introduction to law, culture, politics and people.

2 **Foreigners and foreign culture**—culture as a behavioural influence; some cases in point; how to appreciate alien life-styles; an understanding of culture; the art of credibility; how foreigners view a foreigner; how to cope with hostility; the Eastern Bloc; the foreigner as an individual and the art of negotiation on a personal level.

3 **An insight to foreign law**—the dangers of illicit dealings; the limitations of home government protection; the role of a company lawyer; the importance of local knowledge.

4 **Political problems abroad**—a case in point; economic influences; the importance of involving local political figures and of preliminary investigations.

5 **Preparations for going abroad**—market surveys; feasibility studies; desk research and field reconnaissance; physical verification; continuation reports.

6 **Communication**—language; translation; interpretation; semantics; nuances; functional psychology; group and behavioural patterns.

7 **Hints on international negotiation**—materials; presentation; time, place and circumstance; tempo; reorganisation; personality problems; reality and fiction of hostility; rites, ceremonies and mutual respect.

8 **How to reach agreement**—framing objectives, narrowing issues; discovering and isolating differences; philosophical barriers; accepting and rejecting non-negotiability; strategy; tactics; techniques; style as flair.

9 **Administration and Procedure**—credentials; authority; power; discretion; statements; representations; facts; figures and statistics; predictability; establishing principles and limitations; options and alternatives.

10 **Closing the contract**—main instruments and collateral papers; referential materials; drafting provisos; execution and recordation; bi-lingual conformity; copies and distribution.

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- ☐ Production Management and Technology

Printed by Planet Press, Brighton, Sussex 11.8m 4/79

Economic indicators of the industrial countries: quarterly analysis

The average growth of gross domestic product (GDP) for OECD countries in 1978 was about 3½ per cent according to provisional figures, similar to the rate for the previous year. Economic activity in north America and Japan increased rather faster than in OECD-Europe as a whole. Total OECD trade in volume terms is estimated to have increased by between 5 and 6 per cent in 1978 compared with 1977. Meanwhile the rate of inflation measured over a 12-month period had tended to rise since the spring of last year. The latest unemployment figures show a mixed picture with some improvement in the situation in the United Kingdom, Germany and Japan but a deterioration in France.

Canada

Real growth continued into the fourth quarter of 1978 but still remained below potential. Compared with the previous quarter GNP increased by only 0.5 per cent, reduced by an exceptionally large increase in dividend payments made to non-residents. This brought the increase for the year to 3.4 per cent. Industrial production meanwhile maintained a steady quarter to quarter improvement throughout the year.

In 1978 compared with 1977 the volume of exports grew twice as fast as that of imports while according to Statistics Canada in value terms both grew at about 17 per cent resulting in a record trade surplus of Cdn $3.52 billion. Despite this improvement there was a record deficit on current account of Cdn $5.29 billion, reflecting a worsening in the deficit on invisibles.

The year on year inflation rate continued upward in February reaching 9.2 per cent; rising food prices made a significant contribution increasing by 16 per cent over the same period. The unemployment rate fell below the 8 per cent mark for the first time since June 1977 but remained high at 7.9 per cent in February and March, for although employment growth has been high, there has also been a rapid growth in the working population.

USA

The growth of the US economy slowed appreciably in the first quarter of 1979, possibly attributable in part to the effects of the unusually severe winter weather and to a slackening in the rate of growth of final expenditure. Real GNP in this period rose by only 0.2 per cent over the previous quarter while industrial production is thought to have increased by less than 1 per cent.

The fourth quarter of 1978 saw increases in export and import volumes of 16 and 11 per cent bringing the increases for the year as a whole to 8 and 9½ per cent respectively. The

The tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves. International publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented, where available, by later reports, denoted – (e). The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned. Exchange rates are those used in the basic data sources. The group of industrial countries is taken as comprising the members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ie: western Europe, north America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Consumer prices apart, New Zealand is excluded from OECD totals in that insufficient information is available.

This article is the quarterly variation of the monthly series, supplementing the usual tables with those showing: gross domestic production, earnings/wages, world and industrial countries' trade, balance of payments, import and export volume and exports of manufactures.

Table 1 **Industrial production** (excluding construction) seasonally adjusted

Indices 1975 = 100

	Belgium	Luxembourg	France [2]	F.R. of Germany [4]	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom r	EEC [1,3]	Canada	United States	Japan	OECD [3]
Weights in total	1.6	0.1	7.9	13.5	0.2	4.9	1.8	5.6	35.6	3.7	34.9	15.5	100
1974	111	128.1	108	106.0	107	109.7	105	105.0	107	105.7	109.8	111.7	109
1975	100	100.0	100	100.0	100	100.0	100	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	100.0	100
1976	109	106.3	109	107.3	109	111.6	106	102.7	108	105.1	110.2	111.0	109
1977	109	106.8	110	110.5	118	111.6	107	107.4	110	109.3	116.4	115.6	113
1978	111	112.2	113	113.0	128 e	113.8	108	110.8	112	115.2	123.3	122.7	118
1977 1st quarter	110	106.6	112	111	114	118.7	107	107.5	111	108.5	113.4	115.3	112
2nd	108	108.0	111	110	117	112.8	108	107.4	110	108.6	116.3	115.2	113
3rd	109	105.5	110	110	117	112.5	105	107.9	110	109.4	117.5	115.1	113
4th	108	107.3	109	111	123	110.5	107	106.9	110	110.9	118.3	116.6	114
1978 1st quarter	109	113.4	110	111	127	114.5	107	108.3	111	112.3	118.5	120.0	115
2nd	108	109.2	114	111	129	113.6	106	111.5	112	113.7	122.2	122.1	117
3rd	111	111.9	112	114	126	114.0	108	112.5	113	115.8	124.8	122.8	118
4th	116	114.9	115	115	131 e	120.6	111	110.8	114	119.1	127.1	125.4	120
1979 1st qtr			118 e	115 e				111.5			127.8 e		
1977 November	108	110.5	111	110		111.9	105	106.4	110	110.8	118.3	117.0	114
December	109	107.4	108	113		108.7	109	107.7	110	111.3	118.6	117.9	114
1978 January	108	114.5	111	114		113.2	107	108.2	112	110.6	117.8	119.1	115
February	109	116.0	111	110		115.1	107	108.6	111	112.8	118.2	119.2	114
March	109	109.6	113	110		115.0	107	108.0	111	113.5	119.6	121.7	116
April	109	109.9	117	111		113.0	108	111.9	112	113.9	121.6	121.8	117
May	110	108.6	114	110		113.3	103	110.7	111	112.9	122.2	122.2	117
June	107	109.1	112	112		114.5	108	112.0	112	114.4	123.0	122.3	117
July	111	112.8	113	114		113.7	110	112.6	113	114.9	124.0	121.2	118
August	109	113.5	113	113		113.2	105	113.2	113	114.2	124.9	123.1	118
September	112	109.5	115	115		115.2	108	111.6	114	118.3	125.5	124.1	119
October	114	114.3	115	115		120.9	108	109.3	115	117.9	126.2	123.9	120
November	112	114.2	115	115		121.4	109	110.6	115	118.7	127.0	125.3	119
December	122	116.3	116	115		119.5	114	112.6	116	120.7	128.0	127.1	120
1979 January	114		117	115		118.4	110	104.7	114	121.4	128.0	127.4	120
February	116 e		117 e	114 e		123.8 e	109 e	114.3	116 e		128.4	128.3 e	
March			119 e	115 e				115.6			127.1 e		
% change latest three months On previous three months	4.1	2.7	2.0	n.a.	4.0	1.2	2.5	0.6	0.6	3.0	0.6	2.5	0.6
On a year earlier	8.0	7.1	5.4	n.a.	6.5	7.3	3.1	3.0	3.9	8.4	7.8	7.5	4.7

[1] Excluding Denmark. [2] Yearly and quarterly data have more complete coverage than monthly data. [3] The monthly figures for OECD and EEC are weighted by Department of Trade consistent with the quarterly figures published by OECD. [4] From November 1978, data not comparable with those for previous periods. e Estimated. r Revised.
Source: United Kingdom, Central Statistical Office; all others 'OECD Main Economic Indicators' (latest edition, April 1979).

Table 2 **Gross domestic production** seasonally adjusted — Indices 1975 = 100

	Canada [1]	United States [1]	Japan [1]	Italy	France [2]	FR of Germany [1]	United Kingdom
1974	99	101	99	104	100	102	101
1975	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1976	106	106	106	106	106	105	103
1977	108	111	112	108	108	108	105
1978	112	115				111	108
1977 1st qtr	107	109	110	110	109	107	104
2nd	108	110	112	107	107	107	105
3rd	108	112	112	107	108	108	105
4th	110	113	114	106	108	109	106
1978 1st qtr	111	113	117	108 e	110	109	106
2nd	112	115	118	109 e	111	111	108
3rd	113	116	119	109 e		112	109
4th	113	118				113	109
1979 1st qtr		118					
% change latest quarter							
On previous quarter	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.9	−0.4
On a year earlier	3.1	4.7	5.8	2.6	3.3	3.7	2.2

[1] Gnp at market prices. [2] Annual and quarterly figures are on a different basis. e Estimated figures.
Source: IMF International Finance Statistics; UK, Central Statistical Office.

trade deficit on a balance of payments basis reached a record $34.1 billion in 1978 but (seasonally adjusted) is reported to have been reduced in the first quarter of 1979 to its lowest since the fourth quarter of 1976.

Inflation remains of concern. Consumer prices rose by a seasonally adjusted 1 per cent in March bringing the increase over March 1978 to 10.2 per cent. Preliminary reports suggest unemployment edged upwards in April to 5.8 per cent of the civilian labour force from 5.7 per cent in February and March.

Japan

Economic expansion continued into the fourth quarter of 1978. Real GNP increased by 1.7 per cent over the previous quarter bringing the increase for calendar 1978 to 5.6 per cent.

However, there was a fall in the volume of exports last year of 1.2 per cent with the fourth quarter registering a figure 4.6 per cent lower than the corresponding period of 1977. On the same comparisons, imports rose by 6.5 per cent in 1978, and the final quarter rise was 11.8 per cent above the same period in the previous year. Nevertheless, the visible trade surplus increased to a record $24.7 billion reflecting the continued appreciation of the yen, and although there was some increase in the deficit on invisibles, the current account surplus increased from $10.9 billion in 1977 to $16.6 billion in 1978. In contrast preliminary reports suggest the surplus for the first quarter of 1979 was reduced to $0.3 billion (seasonally adjusted).

There are renewed signs of rising inflation; consumer prices rose by 0.8 per cent in March after falling 0.3 per cent in February and wholesale prices, following a 0.9 per cent increase in March, are reported to have increased 1.7 per cent in April partly reflecting the depreciation of the yen and price increases for oil. Unemployment, which fell in February for the third month running, nonetheless remains of concern.

Federal Republic of Germany

Economic activity increased considerably in the course of 1978 but seasonally adjusted real GNP is estimated to have increased only marginally in the first quarter, probably as a result of various transitory factors such as the unusually harsh winter.

In 1978 as a whole the volume of exports was 5 per cent higher than in 1977 with imports increasing by 8 per cent. Nevertheless, reflecting the appreciation of the mark, the trade surplus for the year as a whole increased to 41 billion marks while the current account surplus at 16.2 billion marks was almost double the previous year's figure. In the first quarter of this year, however, both the trade and current account surpluses were well down from the first quarter of 1978.

Consumer prices rose by 0.7 per cent in March bringing the increase in the year to

Table 3 **Unemployment** seasonally adjusted* — Numbers thousands

	Belgium [3]	Denmark [4 6]	France [1 6]	F.R. of Germany [1]	Ireland [3]	Italy [4 6]	Nether-lands [1]	United Kingdom [1 3]	Canada [4]	United States [4]	Japan [4]
1974	105	*50*	498	583	48	1 113	135	600 [5]	521	5 076	740
1975	177	*124*	840	1 074	75	1 230	195	929	697	7 830	1 000
1976	229	*126*	933	1 060	84	1 426	211	1 269	736	7 288	1 080
1977	264	164	*1 073*	1 030	82	1 545	204	1 378	862	6 856	1 100
1978	282	191	*1 167*	993	75 e	1 571	206	1 376	922	6 047	1 241
1977 1st quarter	249	147	997	1 018	82	1 459	204	1 333	816	7 178	1 052
2nd	261	156	1 067	1 025	83	1 432	202	1 353	832	6 949	1 099
3rd	272	163	1 134	1 054	82	1 692	203	1 403	863	6 708	1 131
4th	276	172	*1 084*	1 023	80	1 598	205	1 422	895	6 492	1 124
1978 1st quarter	279	185	*1 061*	1 014	78	1 520	205	1 416	901	6 179	1 173
2nd	285	183	*1 139*	984	76	1 455	202	1 389	922	6 028	1 251
3rd	284	185	1 234	1 008	74	1 658	206	1 368	921	6 027	1 288
4th	281	189	1 224	952	71 e	1 651	209	1 334	900	5 908	1 251
1979 1st quarter	287 e		1 285	922 e		1 632	209 e	1 357	882	5 878	
1977 October	274	168	*1 100*	1 034	81		204	1 422	885	6 654	1 085
November	278	172	*1 081*	1 027	81		207	1 424	896	6 635	1 139
December	275	176	*1 070*	1 009	79		205	1 421	904	6 187	1 149
1978 January	278	180	*1 040*	1 002	79		206	1 422	886	6 292	1 141
February	278	183	*1 057*	1 028	78		205	1 414	894	6 092	1 176
March	281	191	*1 086*	1 012	77		204	1 411	924	6 153	1 200
April	283	184	*1 105*	978	77		203	1 403	916	6 063	1 212
May	287	182	1 135	987	76		202	1 385	927	6 156	1 254
June	286	182	1 176	989	74		202	1 378	923	5 864	1 288
July	283	183	1 225	1 009	74		204	1 370	908	6 176	1 265
August	285	185	1 251	1 020	74		206	1 373	922	5 940	1 282
September	283	187	1 226	997	73		208	1 360	933	5 964	1 317
October	282	187	1 219	981	72		209	1 350	899	5 836	1 275
November	282	188	1 215	950	72 e		209	1 332	906	5 877	1 280
December	279	190	1 238	924	70 e		210	1 320	895	6 012	1 200
1979 January	282	180	1 256	959			210	1 342	897	5 883	1 152
February	288	174	1 285	936			213	1 366	872	5 881	1 049
March	291 e		1 313	871 e			204 e	1 362	876	5 871	
April	293 e		1 339	854 e				1 327		5 937	
May								1 307			
Rate % latest month	10.9 e	6.6	7.1	3.7 e	9.9 e	7.6	4.9 e	5.4	7.9	5.8	1.9
% change latest three months											
On previous three months	3.4	−3.2	6.1	−6.1	−3.2	−1.2	−0.2	−0.8	−2.0	−0.5	−12.2
On a year earlier	3.6	0.9	n.a.	−11.8	−11.2	7.4	2.0	−4.8	−2.2	−3.4	−1.9

*Unemployment data are defined and collected on different bases in different countries. The following notes indicate main variations preventing direct international comparison. [1] Numbers registered at employment offices. Rates are calculated as percentages of total employees. [2] Excluding school leavers. Year 1974 estimated in the absence of one month's figures. [3] Insured unemployed. Rates are calculated as percentages of total insured population. [4] Labour force sample survey. Rates are calculated as percentages of total labour force. The quarterly data for Italy relate to January, April, July and October. [5] From 1977, including unemployed insured for loss of part time jobs. [6] Not seasonally adjusted. [7] Data from October 1977 to April 1978 are affected by administrative changes which tend to reduce the figures. [8] Numbers registered at employment offices. As from January 1979, rates are calculated as a percentage of total labour force. e Estimated. n.a. Not available. r Revised. Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators' and *Department of Employment Gazette*.

Table 4 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing

Indices 1975 = 100

	Belgium [1]	Denmark [2,3]	France [2] r	FR of Germany [1]	Ireland [2]	Italy [1]	Nether-lands [1]	Great Britain [4]	Canada [7,8]	United States [8]	Japan [2,6]
1974	84	83.9	85.3	91.7	78	78.9	88	79.2	86	92	89.7
1975	100	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100.0	100	100.0	100	100	100.0
1976	113	112.7	114.1	105.6	117	120.9	109	116.6	114	108	112.6
1977	123	124.1	128.5	113.5	135	154.6	117	128.6	126	117	123.3
1978	130	136.8	143.0 e	118.8		179.3	123	147.4	135	128	131.8
1976 1st quarter	109	107.9	106.5 e	103.3	111	106.6	107	111.2	109	105	108.4
2nd	111	112.3	110.1	105.3	114	115.7	107	115.7	113	106	109.8
3rd	114	113.9	114.2	106.7	118	128.0	109	118.0	116	109	113.1
4th	116	117.5	118.1	107.0	126	133.3	111	121.6	118	112	116.8
1977 1st quarter	120	117.8	121.4	111.3	127	142.4	113	124.3	122	114	119.5
2nd	122	123.4	124.3	113.2	133	151.6	115	127.3	125	116	122.2
3rd	124	125.6	128.4	114.6	137	159.5	119	128.1	128	118	123.8
4th	126	129.4	132.4	114.9	143	164.7	119	134.6	130	121	126.3
1978 1st quarter	127	131.7	136.4	116.0	144	170.2	122	139.0	132	124	129.8
2nd	129	135.7	139.7	118.0	154	175.7	122	147.0	133	126	130.9
3rd	130	137.6	145.8	120.4		182.4	124	148.6	136	128	131.0
4th	133	142.1	150.1	120.7		188.8	125	154.8	139	132	134.5
% change latest quarter											
On previous quarter	2.3	3.3	2.9	0.2	6.9	3.5	0.8	4.2	2.2	3.1	2.7
On a year earlier	5.6	9.8	13.4	5.0	15.8	14.6	5.0	15.0	6.9	9.1	6.5

[1] Hourly rates. [2] Hourly earnings. [3] Including mining. [4] Weekly earnings (all employees). [6] Gross hourly earnings per production worker. [7] Monthly earnings: regular workers (enterprises employing at least 30 workers). [7] Hourly earnings for firms employing 20 persons and over. [8] Seasonally adjusted. [9] Hourly rates manufacturing. Annual figures are centred by averaging data from January of current year to January of following year. e Estimate. r Revised.
Source 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

March to 3.3 per cent, the highest 12 month increase since December 1977. Unemployment (seasonally adjusted) fell in April for the third month running to a figure about 100 000 lower than in January.

France

The domestic economic situation changed relatively little during 1978 but there has been some improvement in the external accounts. GDP is reported to have increased by 3.3 per cent in 1978 compared with 3 per cent for 1977. Industrial production was about 2½ per cent higher in 1978 and indications are that it increased by about 2 per cent in the first quarter of 1979 over the previous quarter.

The volume of exports and imports increased respectively by about 6 and 9 per cent in the last quarter of 1978 compared with a year earlier, bringing the increases for the year as a whole to about 6 and 5 per cent. There was a surplus on visible trade in 1978, the first for three years, and reports indicate that this continued into the first quarter.

The rate of inflation was showing some tendency to rise in the second half of last year but in the first three months of this year inflation has been steady at a little over 10 per cent on a year-on-year basis. Unemployment, seasonally adjusted, increased in April for the fifth successive month to a figure more than 100 000 above that for November.

Italy

1978 saw a recovery from nine months of recession. GDP is reported to have risen 2.6 per cent in real terms over 1977 while industrial production showed an increase of about 2 per cent.

The foreign balance made a significant contribution to real growth in 1978. The volume of exports increased by 11½ per cent over the previous year compared with an increase of 8½ per cent for the volume of imports. These volume movements together with terms of trade gains and strong advances in the invisibles balance produced a considerable improvement in Italy's current account for 1978.

Inflation appears to have accelerated in the

Table 5 Consumer prices All goods and services

Indices 1975 = 100

	Belgium	Luxem-bourg	Denmark	France	F.R. of Germany	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC r	Canada	United States	Japan	OECD r
1974	88.7	90.3	91.3	89.5	94.4	82.7	85.5	90.7	80.5	88.8	90.3	91.6	89.4	89.9
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	109.2	109.8	109.0	108.6	104.5	118.0	116.8	108.8	116.5	110.1	107.5	105.8	109.3	108.5
1977	116.9	117.2	121.1	119.9	108.6	134.1	138.3	115.8	135.0	121.6	116.1	112.6	118.1	118.5
1978	122.1	120.8	133.3	130.8	111.4	144.3	155.1	120.5	146.2	130.4	126.5	121.2	122.6	128.0
1977 1st quarter	114.3	115.3	115.3	114.9	107.3	129.1	131.6	113.0	129.2	117.5	112.3	109.7	115.3	114.6
2nd	116.2	117.1	119.0	118.5	108.8	134.0	136.6	115.8	134.9	120.9	114.9	112.1	118.4	117.7
3rd	117.9	117.9	122.0	121.3	109.0	135.4	140.1	116.6	137.0	122.8	117.4	113.7	118.8	119.7
4th	119.3	118.4	128.3	123.6	109.3	137.8	144.8	117.8	139.0	124.8	119.9	115.0	119.8	121.8
1978 1st quarter	120.8	119.2	129.9	125.5	110.7	139.8	148.6	118.2	141.4	126.8	122.1	116.9	120.3	123.8
2nd	121.3	120.5	132.0	129.1	111.7	142.2	153.1	119.9	145.3	129.5	125.1	120.0	122.7	126.9
3rd	122.6	121.2	133.6	132.5	111.7	146.6	156.8	121.5	147.8	131.6	128.3	122.8	123.6	129.5
4th	123.9	122.3	137.5	135.3	111.8	148.7	161.5	122.6	150.3	133.7	130.3	125.3	123.9	132.0
1979 1st qtr	125.4 e	123.9 e	138.8 e	138.3 e	114.1 e	154.8		123.2 e	155.0		133.2 e	128.4 e	123.5 e	
1978 January	120.3	119.0	129.2	124.5	110.2		146.9	117.5	140.6	125.9	121.2	116.1	119.6	123.0
February	120.8	119.2	129.8	125.5	110.8	139.8	148.4	118.0	141.4	126.8	121.9	116.9	120.1	123.8
March	121.1	119.6	130.7	126.6	111.1		150.3	119.0	142.3	127.7	123.3	117.7	121.2	124.7
April	121.2	120.2	131.2	127.9	111.4		151.8	119.8	144.4	128.8	123.6	118.8	122.5	126.0
May	121.4	120.4	132.3	129.2	111.7	142.2	153.2	120.0	145.2	129.6	125.3	119.9	123.2	127.0
June	121.4	120.8	132.6	130.2	112.0		154.5	119.9	146.3	130.3	126.4	121.2	122.5	127.8
July	122.1	121.0	132.9	131.7	112.0		155.4	120.8	147.0	131.0	128.3	122.0	123.0	128.8
August	122.6	121.1	133.5	132.5	111.7	146.6	156.2	121.4	147.9	131.5	128.4	122.7	123.1	129.3
September	123.1	121.3	134.4	133.4	111.4		158.7	122.3	148.5	132.2	128.2	123.6	124.6	130.3
October	123.4	122.0	136.9	134.6	111.4		160.1	122.6	149.2	132.9	129.5	124.6	124.8	131.3
November	123.8	122.4	137.7	135.3	111.7	148.7	161.8	122.6	150.2	133.7	130.5	125.3	123.5	131.8
December	124.4	122.4	137.8	136.0	112.2		162.6	122.5	151.5	134.4	130.9	125.9	123.3	132.9
1979 January	125.1	123.4	137.9	137.2	113.4		165.3	122.2	153.7	135.8	131.9	127.0	123.4	134.2 e
February	125.5	124.0	138.6	138.2	114.0	154.8	168.3 e	122.9	155.0	137.0 e	133.1	128.5	123.0	135.2 e
March	125.6 e	124.3 e	139.8 e	139.4 e	114.8 e			124.4 e	156.2		134.7 e	129.7 e	124.0 e	
April									159.0					
Percentage change														
Latest month on same month a year earlier	3.7	3.9	7.0	10.1	3.3	10.8	13.4	4.5	10.1	8.0	9.2	10.2	2.3	9.2
Latest three months on previous three months	1.2	1.3	0.9	2.2	2.1	4.1	3.2	0.5	3.2	2.1	2.3	2.5	−0.3	2.3
Latest three months on a year earlier	3.9	3.9	6.8	10.1	3.0	10.8	12.5	4.2	9.8	7.7	9.1	9.8	2.6	9.1

e Estimated. r Revised.
Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

Monthly Digest of Statistics

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first few months of the year. Consumer prices in April rose 1.6 per cent over the month bringing the increase in the 12 months to April to 14.3 per cent. Unemployment remains high.

Exports of manufactures

Information available for the full year 1978 on the dollar value of exports of manufactures indicates a greater annual increase than in the previous year for Germany, France and particularly the United States while the increases for the UK and Japan were also marginally larger. Incomplete information on shares suggests that the UK at least maintained the share achieved in 1977. By volume, however, the UK increase of 2 per cent in 1978 is likely to be rather less than for all the main manufacturers combined.

Special note to table 13

Comparisons of trade in manufactures in 1978 with earlier periods may be misleading. A number of countries are now classifying their trade according to SITC (Rev 2). Countries whose figures are known to be on this classification from 1 January 1978 are United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, Sweden and the Netherlands. There have been other changes to the United Kingdom's external trade statistics details of which were given in an article in *Trade and Industry* of 10 February 1978. Under SITC (Rev 2) there has been a change in the coverage of manufactured goods. The magnitude of the change is indicated in the table below for countries which have published figures on both SITC (R) and SITC (Rev 2) for one year.

EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURES (SITC 5-8) US$ billion

	SITC (R) 1977	SITC (Rev 2) 1977
United States [1]	80.45	80.15
United Kingdom	46.77	47.43
Netherlands	23.87	23.79 e
Sweden	15.59	15.36

[1] Includes special category exports. e Estimated.

Inquiries: Department of Trade, Room 243A, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 3126.

Tables 11 and 12 have been withdrawn while alternative sources and methods are being investigated. Further information may be obtained from Department of Trade, ECS5A4, Room 243A, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1, tel. 01-215 5721.

Table 7 Industrial countries' trade

Seasonally adjusted — US $ thousand million

	Exports (fob) to			Imports (cif)[2] from		
	World	OECD	Rest of world [1]	World	OECD	Rest of world [1]
1974	532.93	380.65	152.28	583.08	390.95	192.13
1975	567.80	384.53	183.27	587.38	400.06	187.32
1976	630.49	440.16	190.33	676.31	453.28	223.03
1977	715.10	497.09	218.01	765.94	509.26	256.68
1978	857.42	594.20 e	263.22 e	887.56	610.07	277.49
1976 1st quarter	147.31	101.87	45.44	154.94	104.49	50.45
2nd	153.13	107.12	46.01	162.04	108.95	53.09
3rd	160.67	112.91	47.76	173.05	114.91	58.14
4th	166.88	117.54	49.34	182.87	122.13	60.74
1977 1st quarter	171.03	119.91	51.12	185.66	122.18	63.48
2nd	175.77	122.40	53.37	190.91	126.09	64.82
3rd	180.84	125.68	55.16	192.79	128.33	64.46
4th	187.36	129.33	58.03	196.20	131.80	64.40
1978 1st quarter [3]	196.90	135.82	61.08	206.32	141.06	65.26
2nd	207.16	142.68	64.48	212.91	147.07	65.84
3rd	218.27	150.99	67.28	224.44	155.60	68.84
4th	235.97	165.31	70.65	245.02	169.36	75.66

[1] Includes goods for which no destination is given. [2] Imports into Canada and the United States are valued fob. [3] See table 9 note 4.
Source: 'OECD Series "A" '.

Table 8 Exports (fob) Special trade [1], seasonally adjusted

US $ million

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark [2]	France	F.R. of Germany [2]	Ireland [2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom [2]	EEC	Canada	United States [2] [3]	Japan [2]	OECD
1974	28 260	7 716	45 900	89 160	2 628	30 288	32 436	38 827	275 100	32 784	98 508	55 536	532 932
1975	28 812	8 712	52 212	90 024	3 216	34 824	34 440	44 270	295 992	32 304	107 652	55 752	567 804
1976	32 844	9 108	55 812	102 036	3 312	36 924	38 748	46 542	325 044	38 628	114 996	67 224	630 492
1977	37 488	10 068	63 516	117 936	4 392	45 036	43 680	57 526	379 620	41 556	120 168	80 496	715 104
1978 [4]	44 808	11 844	76 464	142 092	5 688	55 956	50 016	71 729	458 556	46 152	143 664	97 548	857 424
1977 1st quarter	9 010	2 526	15 125	(27 897)	955	10 557	10 530	12 977	89 354	10 250	(29 786)	19 133	171 027
2nd	9 210	2 390	15 341	(28 788)	1 017	11 233	10 770	14 292	92 944	10 178	(30 574)	19 631	175 767
3rd	9 277	2 525	16 236	(29 541)	1 172	11 098	11 248	14 950	96 370	10 396	(30 609)	20 309	180 839
4th	9 755	2 645	17 132	(32 048)	1 250	12 037	11 325	15 307	101 345	10 496	(29 485)	21 440	187 358
1978 1st quarter [4]	10 262	2 710	17 594	(32 394)	1 351	11 772	12 089	17 122	105 610	10 640	(31 083)	23 382	196 899
2nd	10 365	2 885	18 264	(34 755)	1 332	13 224	12 054	16 715	108 955	11 440	(35 807)	23 770	207 156
3rd	11 217	3 026	19 955	(35 746)	1 444	12 991	12 897	18 440	115 873	11 524	(37 780)	25 094	218 264
4th	12 594	3 288	21 204	39 176	1 568	17 704	13 398	19 500	128 850	12 165	39 427	25 520	235 968
1977 August	2 993	850	5 462	(9 861)	396	3 881	3 849	4 823	32 335	3 495	(9 479)	6 730	59 838
September	3 290	852	5 586	(10 199)	380	3 596	3 691	5 106	32 645	3 360	(10 884)	6 610	61 249
October	3 167	849	5 645	(10 369)	388	3 620	3 663	5 017	32 704	3 609	(9 174)	6 960	60 181
November	3 200	872	5 539	(10 197)	413	3 924	3 744	4 898	33 129	3 040	(9 093)	7 235	60 721
December	3 388	924	5 948	(11 482)	449	4 493	3 918	5 392	35 512	3 847	(11 218)	7 245	66 456
1978 January [4]	3 520	887	5 680	(10 942)	475	3 704	4 008	5 369	34 490	3 293	(10 150 e)	7 607	64 058
February	3 282	933	5 747	(10 772)	423	4 062	4 032	6 068	35 210	3 792	(10 036 e)	7 971	65 823
March	3 460	890	6 167	(10 680)	453	4 006	4 049	5 685	35 910	3 555	(10 897 e)	7 804	67 018
April	3 549	947	6 227	(12 108)	455	4 657	3 962	5 607	36 851	4 299	(11 975)	7 802	69 736
May	3 397	933	5 848	(10 354)	422	4 286	4 032	5 528	34 885	3 570	(11 720)	7 961	67 004
June	3 419	1 005	6 189	(12 293)	455	4 281	4 060	5 580	37 219	3 571	(12 112)	8 007	70 416
July	3 650	902	6 537	(10 664)	457	4 122	4 164	5 990	36 591	3 619	(12 054)	8 026	68 760
August	3 740	1 027	6 453	12 169	477	4 318	4 235	6 203	38 578	3 646	12 390	8 354	72 606
September	3 827	1 097	6 965	12 910	510	4 551	4 498	6 247	40 704	4 259	13 412	8 714	76 898
October	4 281	1 110	7 176	13 346	499	5 281	4 583	6 526	42 953	3 819	12 774	8 382	78 171
November	4 348	1 050	7 208	13 172	545	5 326	4 405	6 427	43 127	4 189	13 134	8 787	79 541
December	3 965	1 128	6 820	12 658	524	7 097	4 410	6 547	42 770	4 157	13 519	8 351	78 256
1979 January		1 098	7 153	13 178				6 037		4 201		8 005	
February		1 026	7 413	13 160						3 871		8 318	

[1] See notes to table 9.

Source: United Kingdom. Department of Trade; all others: 'OECD Series "A" '.

Table 9 **Imports** (cif) Special trade [1], seasonally adjusted

US $ million

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark [2]	France	F.R. of Germany [3]	Ireland [2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom [2]	EEC	Canada [2]	United States [2] [3]	Japan	OECD
1974	29 700	9 852	52 824	68 976	3 816	40 968	33 204	54 344	293 568	32 292	100 968	62 112	583 080
1975	30 708	10 332	54 240	74 208	3 804	38 364	35 148	53 618	300 048	33 960	96 936	57 864	587 376
1976	35 352	12 420	64 392	87 780	4 200	43 368	39 948	56 269	343 428	37 956	121 788	64 800	676 308
1977	40 248	13 260	70 488	100 704	5 388	47 556	45 600	63 740	386 940	39 540	147 852	70 812	765 936
1978 [4]	48 360	14 760	81 684	120 672	7 104	56 364	52 872	78 652	460 404	43 560	173 292	79 344	887 556
1977 1st quarter	9 379	3 285	17 317	(24 170)	1 243	11 910	11 224	15 322	93 627	9 874	(35 405)	17 625	185 655
2nd	9 564	3 282	17 338	(24 116)	1 286	12 074	11 280	16 429	95 262	10 081	(37 721)	17 610	190 907
3rd	9 487	3 372	17 854	(25 593)	1 417	11 344	11 581	15 779	96 740	9 850	(37 600)	17 698	192 793
4th	10 125	3 291	18 236	(27 435)	1 474	12 143	11 693	16 210	100 025	9 871	(37 640)	17 928	196 200
1978 1st quarter [4]	10 992	3 467	19 144	(28 054)	1 524	11 953	12 419	18 977	106 689	9 660	(40 778)	18 429	206 318
2nd	10 851	3 500	19 567	(28 977)	1 748	12 741	12 524	18 754	107 813	11 148	(43 200)	18 999	212 913
3rd	11 869	3 773	20 901	(30 326)	1 937	13 854	13 639	20 239	116 745	10 914	(44 570)	20 172	224 439
4th	12 983	4 123	22 578	33 626	1 948	17 332	14 751	20 681	128 591	11 843	46 123	21 891	245 023
1977 August	3 390	1 125	6 068	(8 393)	461	3 883	3 942	4 936	32 517	3 291	(12 167)	6 013	64 608
September	3 199	1 148	5 957	(8 594)	488	3 703	3 796	5 369	32 289	3 257	(12 652)	5 844	64 248
October	3 255	1 092	5 896	(8 557)	486	4 023	3 752	5 337	32 467	3 359	(11 954)	5 850	64 405
November	3 359	1 094	6 218	(8 773	479	3 882	3 926	4 998	33 046	2 997	(11 581)	6 000	63 824
December	3 511	1 105	6 122	(10 105)	509	4 238	4 015	5 875	34 512	3 515	(14 105)	6 078	67 971
1978 January [4]	3 626	1 150	6 397	(9 824)	537	3 807	4 117	6 257	35 266	3 059	(12 582)	6 176	67 254
February	3 673	1 148	6 180	(9 252)	515	4 071	4 145	6 163	35 049	3 691	(14 848)	6 277	70 243
March	3 693	1 169	6 567	(8 978)	472	4 075	4 157	6 557	36 374	2 910	(13 348)	5 976	68 821
April	3 535	1 143	6 530	(10 104)	546	4 326	4 253	5 666	35 309	4 253	(15 328)	6 584	71 768
May	3 664	1 179	6 529	(9 050)	597	4 502	4 233	6 562	36 359	3 430	(14 165)	6 655	71 020
June	3 652	1 178	6 508	(9 823)	605	3 913	4 038	6 526	36 145	3 465	(13 707)	5 760	70 125
July	3 753	1 175	6 729	(9 686)	604	5 133	4 480	6 522	38 074	3 707	(15 643)	6 384	73 624
August	4 096	1 291	6 977	10 113	673	4 233	4 534	6 698	38 658	3 440	13 778	6 706	73 207
September	4 020	1 307	7 195	10 664	660	4 488	4 625	7 019	40 013	3 767	15 358	7 082	77 608
October	4 379	1 385	7 548	11 237	681	4 844	4 918	6 861	42 028	3 843	15 402	6 911	80 798
November	4 334	1 351	7 522	11 264	695	5 384	5 039	6 992	43 422	3 836	14 931	7 412	81 616
December	4 270	1 387	7 508	11 125	572	7 104	4 794	6 828	43 141	4 164	15 790	7 568	82 609
1979 January		1 300	7 730	11 609				6 597		4 104		7 526	
February		1 336	8 064	11 558						3 956		8 018	

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] fob. [4] In these tables, from January 1978, the trade of Ireland, United Kingdom, United States, Italy and Japan are classified according to SITC Rev 2. The changes are described in an article in *Trade and Industry* 10 February 1978, which also gives for the UK an indication of the magnitude of the change. It is thought that other countries have also adopted this classification from the beginning of 1978, but the extent of the discontinuity has not been ascertained. Percentage changes may be misleading and have therefore been omitted. [5] The OECD has revised the seasonally adjusted figures. It has been possible to include only the published revisions at this stage, therefore figures in parenthesis are still on the old basis. e estimate r revised.

Source: United Kingdom, Department of Trade; all others: 'OECD Series "A".

Table 10 **Balance of payments on current account**

US $ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark	France	F.R. of Germany	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	Canada	United States	Japan
1974	911	−981	−5 845	9 803	−672	−8 040	2 213	−8 398	−11 009	−1 487	1 720	−4 692
1975	705	−491	123	4 059	−25	−555	1 997	−4 178	1 635	−4 696	18 456	−681
1976	−294	−1 909	−5 912	3 903	−261	−2 855	2 716	−2 021	−6 633	−3 839	4 339	3 681
1977	−373	−1 681	−3 296	3 799		2 285	363	582		−3 930	−15 276	10 911
1978		−1 387					−1 430	498		−4 624	−15 958	16 599
1977 1st quarter	86	−481	−1 636	940		−1 025	262	−965		−1 484	−2 342	889
2nd	−173	−395	−474	1 090		336	−123	−562		−1 173	−2 501	2 181
3rd	−375	−396	−1 190	−2 033		2 298	−181	1 027		−512	−5 194	3 261
4th	89	−410	7	3 803		675	403	1 081		−762	−5 236	4 581
1978 1st quarter	−78	−502	−183	1 576		288	−218	−1 124		−1 354	−6 388	3 964
2nd	−258	−102	1 880	1 944		1 778	−316	374		−1 152	−2 799	4 579
3rd	−637	−241	675	−760		2 596	−1 048	334		−500	−6 320	5 122
4th		−543					152	913		−1 619	−451	2 936

Source: United Kingdom Economic Trends. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics.

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Table 13 **Exports of manufactures by the main manufacturing countries** [1]

	Canada [4]	United States [1] [2]	Japan	Sweden [3]	Switzerland	Belgium/ Luxembourg	France	FR of Germany [3]	Italy [4]	Nether-lands [3]	United Kingdom [3] (seasonally adjusted)	Total [1] (seasonally adjusted)	UK share per cent
Value US $ thousand million (fob)													
1974	16.52	62.26	52.50	12.12	10.91	23.03	33.60	78.95	24.88	18.95	32.02	365.78	8.8
1975	16.68	69.46	53.17	13.84	12.04	22.80	40.12	79.62	29.14	19.32	36.58	392.78	9.3
1976	20.65	75.95	64.58	14.77	13.66	26.04	43.01	90.73	31.18	22.32	38.54	441.41	8.7
1977	23.08	78.92	77.70	15.59	16.15	29.34	49.71	104.35	38.01	23.77	46.77	503.39	9.3
1978 p	26.69	92.04	94.29		22.15	35.62	59.88	125.23	47.66	27.93	57.59		
1975 1st quarter	3.97	16.89	12.51	3.54	2.95	6.16	10.25	19.78	6.92	4.86	9.37	99.24	9.4
2nd	4.35	17.93	13.04	3.77	3.13	6.00	10.98	21.02	7.28	5.13	9.11	98.67	9.2
3rd	3.73	16.48	13.14	2.91	2.71	4.72	8.62	18.40	7.18	4.16	8.77	94.97	9.2
4th	4.63	18.16	14.48	3.62	3.25	5.92	10.27	20.41	7.76	5.16	9.33	99.89	9.3
1976 1st quarter	4.63	18.22	13.80	3.51	3.08	6.08	10.40	20.80	6.81	5.01	9.58	104.64	9.2
2nd	5.58	19.94	15.75	3.68	3.44	6.64	11.23	21.90	7.46	5.31	9.49	106.62	8.9
3rd	4.99	17.96	16.79	3.46	3.20	5.86	9.62	22.26	7.84	5.38	9.60	111.79	8.6
4th	5.44	19.83	18.23	4.12	3.95	7.47	11.75	25.77	9.07	6.61	9.88	118.36	8.3
1977 1st quarter p	5.58	19.40	17.08	3.92	3.61	7.28	12.04	24.74	8.45	5.88	10.55	121.76	8.7
2nd p	6.19	20.59	18.98	4.05	3.81	7.55	12.69	25.41	9.62	5.89	11.54	121.94	9.5
3rd p	5.18	19.13	19.87	3.23	3.84	6.62	11.29	24.85	9.12	5.66	12.20	126.51	9.6
4th p	6.13	19.80	21.76	4.40	4.88	7.88	13.69	29.35	10.82	6.34	12.49	133.18	9.4
1978 1st quarter p	5.91	20.12	21.16	4.02	4.91	8.55	13.87	28.68	9.17	6.71	13.90		
2nd p	7.30	23.39	22.93	4.55	5.34	8.63	15.31	30.42	11.59	6.89	13.41		
3rd p	6.03	22.71	24.48	3.98	5.52	7.90	13.72	29.80	10.85	6.59	14.69		
4th p	7.47	25.81	25.72		6.38	10.53	16.97	36.33	16.04	7.74	15.59		
1979 1st qtr p		26.15						35.16					
Volume index 1975 = 100													
1974	105	104	96	106	108	109	102	112	100	108	103	105	
1975	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
1976	113	102	123	102	111	115	109	114	114	119 e	109	112	
1977 p	126	101	134	102	124	119	118	119	123	116 e	118	117	
1978 p							123			113	120		
1975 1st quarter	92	99	93	101	93	100	102	96	93	94	100	99	
2nd	104	103	98	104	102	101	104	102	99	101	98	98	
3rd	92	95	100	88	95	87	88	95	100	91	98	99	
4th	112	103	109	107	110	112	104	108	109	115	104	104	
1976 1st quarter	102	101	105	101	103	111	106	109	105	113 e	105	108 e	
2nd	121	108	121	104	112	120	114	113	115	117 e	109	110 e	
3rd	109	97	128	96	104	104	98	111	111	116 e	109	112 e	
4th	122	104	137	106	126	125	120	122	126	132 e	112	116 e	
1977 1st quarter p	118	102	125	99	118	121	118	116	114	117	114	117 e	
2nd p	133	107	133	104	122	124	123	118	126	116	118	115	
3rd p	114	98	136	85	118	107	105	112	116	111	123	117	
4th p	137	98	142	119	137	125	125	128	135	122	117	119	
1978 1st quarter p	124		135	102	126	127	122	118	109	116	119	120	
2nd p	151		129	111	135	126	129	125	138	119	119	121	
3rd p	129		130	94	124	111	109	118		107	121		
4th p							132			110	122		
Unit value index in US $ 1975 = 100													
1977 weights	0.0401	0.1487	0.1674	0.0393	0.0360	0.0616	0.1131	0.2564	0.0852	0.0524		Weighted average ex UK	Ratio of UK to weighted average
1974	94	86	101	82	84	93	82	88	85	91	86	89	96.3
1975	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
1976	109	107	99	104	102	100	98	100	93	96 e	98	101	97.6
1977	110	112	108	111	108	108	105	110	106	106 e	113	109	103.0
1978							122	127		136	136		
1975 1st quarter	104	98	101	101	105	108	100	104	102	107	102	102	100.1
2nd	100	100	100	105	102	104	105	104	101	105	102	102	99.6
3rd	97	100	99	96	95	95	98	97	99	95	98	98	100.1
4th	99	102	100	98	98	93	98	95	98	93	98	98	100.1
1976 1st quarter	109	104	99	100	99	96	98	96	89	92 e	100	98 e	102.0 e
2nd	111	106	98	102	102	97	98	97	89	94 e	96	99 e	96.4 e
3rd	110	107	99	104	102	99	98	101	97	96 e	99	101 e	97.9 e
4th	107	110	100	112	104	105	98	106	99	104 e	98	104 e	94.2 e
1977 1st quarter	113	110	103	114	102	106	102	107	102	104 e	105	106 e	98.8 e
2nd	112	111	107	112	104	107	103	108	105	105	110	108	102.2
3rd	109	113	110	110	108	109	107	111	108	108	114	110	103.6
4th	107	116	115	107	118	111	109	115	110	108	121	113	107.2
1978 1st quarter	114		118	114	129	118	113	122	115	120	132	119 p	110.5 p
2nd	116		134	118	131	120	118	122	115	120	129	123 p	104.2 p
3rd	112		142	123	148	125	126	127		127	139	129 p	107.4 p
4th							128	137		146	146		

[1] See special note at end of text. [2] Excluding 'special category exports' for which detailed information on countries of destination is withheld by the United States authorities. [3] SITC (rev 2) from 1 January 1978. [4] Revised volume and unit value data for Canada and Italy are being obtained. Meanwhile this table will continue to show indices on the old basis. p Provisional. e Estimate.

Sources: Values. United Kingdom and total: DTI. Other countries: OECD updated from national sources. Volume. Derived from the value figures and the unit value index numbers. Unit values. United Kingdom and total: DTI. Other countries: United Nations. The weighting reflects the relative importance of each country in UK's overseas markets. The ratio indicates the UK competitive position.

Capital expenditure of the manufacturing, distributive and service industries in the first quarter of 1979: provisional estimates

Manufacturing industry

The provisional estimate of fixed investment by manufacturing industry in the first quarter of 1979 is £948 million at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, a fall of 4 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1978. The irregular nature of first quarter results has been a feature in the otherwise uninterrupted climb in investment from the trough of the first quarter of 1976. Comparing the half year ended March 1979 with the preceding half year – to smooth the irregularities of the quarterly series – reveals a fall of less than 1 per cent for all manufacturing industry and, if the results for the iron and steel industry are excluded, a rise of just over 1 per cent.

Using the same half-yearly comparison for investment in individual assets shows a rise of 3 per cent in new building work, a fall of 10 per cent in vehicles and no change in plant and machinery.

Table 1 **Fixed capital expenditure at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted of manufacturing, distributive and service industries**

£ million

		Analysis by industrial sectors			Analysis by type of asset		
Period	Total	Manufacturing industries	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry	New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1967	6 680	3 412	2 985	283	2 439	1 150	3 091
1968	7 386 (7 232) [1]	3 642 (3 549)	3 262 (3 251) [1]	483 (433) [1]	2 510	1 431 (1 381) [1]	3 446 (3 342) [1]
1969	7 763 (7 917) [1]	3 898 (3 991)	3 478 (3 489) [1]	387 (437) [1]	2 716	1 386 (1 436) [1]	3 661 (3 765) [1]
1970	8 470	4 196	3 669	605	2 766	1 603	4 101
1971	8 413	3 923	3 888	602	2 870	1 546	3 997
1972	8 249	3 398	4 055	796	2 585	1 891	3 774
1973	8 997	3 504	4 674	818	2 740	2 097	4 160
1974	9 112	3 822	4 605	685	2 656	2 010	4 446
1975	7 929	3 522	3 841	565	2 158	1 590	4 181
1976	7 601	3 345	3 926	329	1 993	1 552	4 056
1977	8 296	3 573	4 325	398	1 998	1 768	4 530
1978	8 729	3 856	4 677	197	2 116	1 677	4 936
1972							
1st qtr	2 047	901	965	181	653	431	963
2nd	2 069	841	1 016	211	650	478	941
3rd	2 024	829	1 015	180	632	466	926
4th	2 110	827	1 059	224	650	516	944
1973							
1st qtr	2 304	878	1 167	259	708	571	1 026
2nd	2 168	845	1 157	166	683	471	1 015
3rd	2 224	912	1 158	154	697	483	1 044
4th	2 300	869	1 192	239	652	573	1 076
1974							
1st qtr	2 300	951	1 224	124	713	468	1 119
2nd	2 269	948	1 160	161	668	494	1 107
3rd	2 267	948	1 117	202	651	529	1 086
4th	2 276	975	1 104	197	625	518	1 133
1975							
1st qtr	2 076	942	967	167	572	438	1 065
2nd	2 027	901	967	159	562	405	1 061
3rd	1 957	850	967	140	526	385	1 047
4th	1 868	830	940	99	498	362	1 008
1976							
1st qtr	1 840	813	936	92	508	367	965
2nd	1 854	828	972	54	496	362	996
3rd	1 975	849	1 005	121	498	442	1 035
4th	1 932	856	1 014	62	491	380	1 061
1977							
1st qtr	1 988	851	1 030	107	476	437	1 075
2nd	2 024	879	1 044	101	470	445	1 109
3rd	2 111	910	1 103	98	516	451	1 144
4th	2 174	932	1 149	93	535	436	1 203
1978							
1st qtr	2 150	923	1 162	65	503	435	1 213
2nd	2 186	963	1 174	50	532	419	1 234
3rd	2 213	982	1 162	69	537	443	1 233
4th	2 180	988	1 179	13	544	380	1 257
1979							
1st qtr	2,181	948	1,214	20	513	409	1,258

The figures given above cover a wide sector of the economy, accounting – after exclusion of dwellings – for some 52 per cent of all UK gross domestic fixed capital formation in 1977. The scope of manufacturing and the distributive and service industries is defined in the notes at the end of the article, and falls very largely in the private sector of the economy, although some public sector elements are included as appropriate (notably the British Steel Corporation, in manufacturing industry). Exploration and development work in the North Sea (order II is excluded.)

[1] After allowing for expenditure, brought forward into 1968 from 1969 to secure the higher rate of investment grants which ended on 31 December 1968: estimated at £93 million for manufacturing industry, £11 million for distributive and service industries, and £50 million for shipping. The estimate for shipping is particularly uncertain because of the erratic nature of this industry's capital expenditure, while that for the distributive and service industries is uncertain because of the smallness of the effect.

Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)

The provisional estimate of the capital expenditure of the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) in the first quarter of 1979 is £1,214 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, about 3 per cent higher than the outcome for the previous quarter. This increase was attributable to greater investment in vehicles (a rise of about 4 per cent) and in plant and machinery (some 6 per cent), slightly offset by a small reduction (approximately 2 per cent) in new building work.

As an innovation in these quarterly results, separate figures are to be given for 'Finance', which covers insurance, banking, finance and business services (order XXIV of the 1968 SIC). Investment in assets for leasing, hiring and renting out are classified to this group on the basis of ownership of the assets (see *Trade and Industry*, 29 September 1978).

Shipping

This series, for the quarterly investment by the shipping industry, continues to fluctuate, and the provisional estimate for the first quarter of 1979 is £20 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, somewhat higher than the estimate for the previous quarter, but well below the average quarterly expenditure in 1978.

Notes

1 The estimation of changes in the volume of capital expenditure (as distinct from changes at current prices) is subject to greater uncertainty when the rate of price increases is varying and this should be borne in mind in using the figures.

2 The latest results of the department's investment intentions inquiry were published in *Trade and Industry*, 5 January, and for manufacturing indicated a rise in investment in 1979 of 4 to 8 per cent over the 1978 level. The results of the next investment intentions inquiry for 1979 will be published in *Trade and Industry*, 8 June.

3 It should be remembered that there has been an increase during recent years in the practice of obtaining capital goods through some form of leasing or rental arrangements rather than by purchase.

Expenditure on capital goods acquired for leasing out is classified to the service industries on the basis of ownership of the assets. In so far as this leasing is to firms in manufacturing industry, there is an apparent switch of investment from manufacturing to the service industries in the figures. When this is taken into account, the figures in tables 1 and 2 for manufacturing investment are increased as follows.

Notes to tables

See *Trade and Industry*, 30 March, page 694.

Manufacturers' investment plus estimates of assets leased from the service industries

Year	1975 prices, £ million
1975	3 710
1976	3 540
1977	3 850
1978 (estimated)	4 215

Data are not available prior to 1975. An article on investment in assets for leasing was published in *Trade and Industry*, 29 September 1978.

Inquiries: Manufacturing industry 01-215 3175/3176. Distribution and service industry 01-215 3345.

Table 2 Fixed capital expenditure of manufacturing industry at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total all manufacturing industries	Analysis by industry group: Food, drink and tobacco: Food [1]	Drink and tobacco [1]	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals	Iron and steel	Non-ferrous metals	Engineering, shipbuilding and metal goods: Instrument and electrical engineering [1]	Other	Vehicles	Textiles leather and clothing	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1970	4 196.4	503.8		176.5	785.6	318.1	200.0	807.5		434.2	314.3	262.8	393.6	1 000.2	222.0	2 974.2
1971	3 922.5	505.3		251.9	683.6	467.6	131.8	708.9		274.9	265.0	214.7	418.8	905.2	222.0	2 795.3
1972	3 397.8	519.4		214.9	492.2	439.7	77.3	640.8		179.2	217.0	194.3	423.0	738.0	239.4	2 420.4
1973	3 504.1	297.4	269.6	86.1	389.3	347.1	63.3	263.7	508.9	259.3	314.5	225.6	479.3	738.7	260.1	2 505.3
1974	3 822.0	318.8	254.4	92.6	440.1	416.0	78.3	299.4	553.7	315.9	336.7	249.0	467.1	727.1	273.6	2 821.3
1975	3 521.9	285.1	181.0	111.3	545.5	513.2	77.7	258.3	501.9	269.8	233.4	210.8	333.9	639.9	199.9	2 682.1
1976	3 345.3	268.9	168.3	90.1	556.0	585.2	51.2	254.0	468.1	247.9	170.9	177.9	306.8	513.9	239.7	2 591.7
1977	3 572.6	360.5	217.3	75.4	622.3	451.1	61.0	304.8	502.6	287.2	150.8	173.3	366.3	547.1	285.8	2 739.7
1978	3 855.6	374.9	235.8	123.2	745.8	301.1	66.6	378.6	538.7	410.6	143.5	199.6	337.2	620.3	261.9	2 973.4
1974																
1st qtr	951.1	84.3	68.3	21.0	100.6	89.1	18.2	71.5	144.7	79.2	86.6	58.3	129.3	191.6	68.4	691.1
2nd	948.3	76.5	71.3	20.8	103.1	97.4	21.2	73.8	134.0	79.9	87.2	63.7	119.4	182.1	69.2	697.0
3rd	947.5	80.5	61.9	23.6	108.4	95.9	19.4	76.6	138.4	81.1	85.3	62.9	113.5	174.8	69.8	702.9
4th	975.1	77.5	52.9	27.2	128.0	133.6	19.5	77.5	136.6	75.7	77.6	64.1	104.9	178.6	66.2	730.3
1975																
1st qtr	941.7	76.5	50.5	27.4	140.2	111.7	30.4	71.9	136.1	75.5	67.5	58.5	95.5	176.7	54.3	710.7
2nd	900.8	72.9	46.7	30.1	140.7	123.6	15.0	67.3	133.8	70.5	59.4	53.0	87.8	167.6	47.5	685.7
3rd	849.9	69.0	34.7	32.5	138.3	135.5	16.6	58.4	122.6	61.3	53.8	52.7	74.5	155.9	47.8	646.2
4th	829.5	66.7	49.1	21.3	126.3	142.4	15.7	60.7	109.4	62.5	52.7	46.6	76.1	139.7	50.3	639.5
1976																
1st qtr	813.0	63.6	38.3	27.8	125.7	154.6	14.0	63.3	109.3	52.5	47.6	46.3	70.0	135.0	53.6	624.4
2nd	827.8	64.3	35.9	22.5	137.0	155.7	12.0	60.0	116.3	62.7	43.4	45.9	72.1	126.3	60.7	640.8
3rd	848.7	69.9	47.2	19.8	144.9	147.6	12.0	63.5	114.5	63.9	41.0	43.5	80.9	126.9	62.3	659.5
4th	855.8	71.1	46.9	20.0	148.4	127.3	13.2	67.2	128.0	68.8	38.9	42.2	83.8	125.7	63.1	667.0
1977																
1st qtr	851.2	81.8	52.1	15.5	142.0	124.9	12.6	69.3	119.6	64.2	39.2	42.2	87.8	128.2	70.0	653.0
2nd	879.1	92.4	57.5	18.8	150.8	111.4	14.8	73.4	125.1	64.2	38.3	42.3	90.1	134.4	75.5	669.2
3rd	910.2	94.1	58.0	18.0	163.3	102.1	17.0	83.2	128.8	74.4	35.7	44.6	91.0	139.3	69.2	701.7
4th	932.1	92.2	49.7	23.1	166.2	112.7	16.6	78.9	129.1	84.4	37.6	44.2	97.4	145.2	71.1	715.8
1978																
1st qtr	923.1	89.1	71.2	22.6	171.9	86.3	15.2	88.3	129.2	79.7	35.3	49.0	85.3	142.0	68.8	712.3
2nd	963.0	103.6	57.9	30.4	177.0	86.7	16.7	90.2	128.0	105.8	32.8	48.8	85.1	146.5	68.8	747.7
3rd	981.7	88.1	50.9	38.5	198.5	65.6	18.0	106.0	144.2	98.4	36.2	49.9	87.4	161.7	67.7	752.3
4th	987.8	94.1	55.8	31.7	198.4	62.5	16.7	94.1	137.3	126.7	39.2	51.9	79.4	170.1	56.6	761.1
1979																
1st qtr	947.6													147.1	65.8	734.7

[1] These columns represent the division of the columns 'food, drink and tobacco, engineering, shipbuilding and metal goods', formerly shown. This split is not available for the years 1970 to 1972.

Table 3 Fixed capital expenditure in the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total	Analysis by industry group: Wholesale distribution	Retail distribution	Finance [2]	Other industries	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1968	3 262 (3 251) [1]	345	539	923 (916) [1]	1 454 (1 450)	1 640	751	870 (859) [1]
1969	3 478 (3 489)	332	552	1 052 (1 059)	1 542 (1 546)	1 710	794	974 (985) [1]
1970	3 669	365	547	1 241	1 516	1 752	803	1 114
1971	3 888	384	582	1 377	1 546	1 959	743	1 187
1972	4 055	405	685	1 391	1 575	1 841	893	1 322
1973	4 674	396	790	1 755	1 733	1 997	1 034	1 644
1974	4 605	438	778	1 774	1 615	1 922	1 064	1 620
1975	3 841	362	672	1 452	1 355	1 509	838	1 494
1976	3 926	337	666	1 508	1 415	1 469	1 002	1 455
1977	4 325	370	750	1 642	1 563	1 437	1 101	1 787
1978	4 677	378	779	1 985	1 535	1 489	1 230	1 958
1973								
1st qtr	1 167	103	192	443	429	527	250	390
2nd	1 157	98	197	438	424	504	245	409
3rd	1 158	95	206	409	449	504	268	386
4th	1 192	100	196	464	432	462	271	459
1974								
1st qtr	1 224	118	190	490	427	520	278	426
2nd	1 160	107	192	439	421	484	267	408
3rd	1 117	112	186	434	385	475	260	382
4th	1 104	101	211	411	382	443	258	403
1975								
1st qtr	967	98	158	365	346	394	221	353
2nd	967	92	167	376	332	392	201	374
3rd	967	87	171	371	338	367	201	399
4th	940	85	175	340	340	357	215	368
1976								
1st qtr	936	82	164	353	336	371	227	338
2nd	972	83	182	359	348	367	252	353
3rd	1 005	86	160	386	372	369	263	372
4th	1 014	86	160	410	359	361	261	392
1977								
1st qtr	1 030	81	184	375	390	347	263	420
2nd	1 044	92	183	385	384	332	274	439
3rd	1 103	97	197	426	383	374	287	442
4th	1 149	101	186	455	407	385	277	487
1978								
1st qtr	1 162	90	200	474	398	360	303	499
2nd	1 174	94	206	485	389	384	305	485
3rd	1 162	96	187	507	372	374	309	479
4th	1 179	98	186	519	376	372	313	495
1979								
1st qtr	1 214					366	325	523

[1] See footnote to table 1 [2] Including leasing, on the basis of the ownership of assets.

Table 4 Fixed capital expenditure at current prices of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period	Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping	Shipping industry
1968	3 304	1 639	1 418	247
1969	3 629	1 822	1 589	217
1970	4 294	2 130	1 799	364
1971	4 648	2 187	2 078	384
1972	4 971	2 044	2 373	553
1973	6 071	2 347	3 090	635
1974	7 360	3 067	3 682	611
1975	7 929	3 522	3 841	565
1976	8 841	3 958	4 497	386
1977	11 033	4 862	5 611	560
1978	12 878	5 794	6 698	386
1973				
1st qtr	1 455	555	734	166
2nd	1 378	521	738	118
3rd	1 464	612	743	109
4th	1 775	659	875	242
1974				
1st qtr	1 673	693	890	90
2nd	1 684	688	871	125
3rd	1 848	776	899	173
4th	2 155	910	1 022	223
1975				
1st qtr	1 895	860	893	142
2nd	1 890	832	920	138
3rd	1 989	869	972	148
4th	2 155	961	1 056	138
1976				
1st qtr	2 034	918	1 020	96
2nd	1 999	893	1 053	53
3rd	2 274	997	1 130	146
4th	2 534	1 150	1 293	92
1977				
1st qtr	2 491	1 106	1 263	122
2nd	2 498	1 101	1 284	114
3rd	2 792	1 233	1 414	145
4th	3 251	1 421	1 651	180
1978				
1st qtr	3 018	1 322	1 584	112
2nd	3 016	1 346	1 584	86
3rd	3 251	1 456	1 639	156
4th	3 594	1 671	1 891	32
1979				
1st qtr	3 291	1 470	1 786	36

Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks in the first quarter: provisional estimates

Provisional figures indicate that the level of stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers rose by about £200 million at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted in the first quarter of 1979.

Manufacturing industry

It is provisionally estimated that manufacturers' stocks rose by about £35 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the first quarter of 1979. Stocks of materials and fuel fell by about £15 million. Work in progress fell by about £5 million, following five successive increases. Stocks of finished goods rose by about £55 million. It has of course to be remembered that provisional estimates of stock changes are subject to substantial revision.

The stocks/output ratio rose during the quarter from 102.6 at end-December to 104.4 at end-March due to the increase in stocks and the fall in manufacturing output. The ratios for each asset rose during the quarter.

Distributive industries

Provisional estimates show a rise of about £80 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, in wholesalers' stocks in the first quarter of 1979. This increase follows a very small rise over the previous year. Retailers' stocks increased by about £90 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the first quarter.

Note

The estimation of physical change in stocks is subject to greater uncertainty when the rate of price increase is varying and this should be borne in mind when using the figures.

Inquiries: manufacturing industry 01-215 3175/5215; distributive industries 01-215 3345.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842 or 01-215 5879.

Notes to tables 1 to 4

1 The analysis by industry group follows the standard industrial classification (1968 edition):
Manufacturing orders III to XIX.
Distributive trades order XXII:
Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by finance houses)
Retail MLH 820, 821.

2 Book values exclude VAT. Purchase tax payable on retailer's stock prior to the second quarter of 1973.
3 The estimates are shown to the nearest £ million but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in tables 2 and 3 because of the margin of error involved in quarterly seasonal adjustments. Difference between totals and the sum of constituent parts are due to rounding.

r Revised. p Provisional.

Table 1 **Value of physical increase in industry's stocks at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted**

£ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1977	27 716	19 995	4 540	3 181
1967	229	119	31	79
1968	814	530	160	124
1969	789	600	131	58
1970	805	616	202	−13
1971	−47	−277	218	12
1972	−77	−279	173	29
1973	2 392	1 336	432	624
1974	1 469	1 288	361	−180
1975	−1 570	−1 221	−249	−100
1976	460	316	131	13
1977	737	442	266	29
1978	935	597	6	333
1973				
1st qtr	638	384	115	139
2nd	729	341	74	314
3rd	531	337	119	75
4th	493	274	123	96
1974				
1st qtr	78	54	87	−63
2nd	662	453	156	53
3rd	654	686	62	−94
4th	74	94	56	−76
1975				
1st qtr	−447	−258	−84	−105
2nd	−432	−230	−107	−95
3rd	−481	−476	−45	40
4th	−210	−257	−13	60
1976				
1st qtr	37	−13	43	7
2nd	−106	−29	−10	−67
3rd	226	99	81	46
4th	304	260	17	27
1977				
1st qtr	434	235	82	117
2nd	280	97	179	4
3rd	−145	−6	−80	−59
4th	168	116	85	−33
1978				
1st qtr	181	38	81	62
2nd	338	272	−62	128
3rd	274	175	45	54
4th	143	112	−59	89
1979				
1st qtr p	196	33	76	87

Table 2 **Value of the physical increase of stocks held by manufacturing industry at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted**

£ million

	Analysis by industry group							Analysis by type of asset		
	All manufacturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manufacture	Engineering, shipbuilding, vehicles and metal goods	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing industries	Materials and fuel	Work in progress	Finished goods
Level of stocks at end 1977	19 995	2 334	2 462	1 805	9 724	1 433	2 237	7 277	7 321	5 397
1967	119	57	15	−82	219	−68	−22	−29	245	−96
1968	530	16	174	73	112	59	97	220	199	112
1969	600	55	181	−31	124	134	138	194	43	364
1970	616	17	103	98	400	—	−2	234	215	166
1971	−277	17	39	14	−311	−29	−8	−291	−170	184
1972	−279	34	3	−89	−162	−95	30	−88	58	−248
1973	1 336	152	251	60	595	75	203	829	544	−38
1974	1 288	261	403	7	459	19	138	658	53	577
1975	−1 221	−360	−285	21	−207	−96	−295	−926	−272	−23
1976	316	16	97	236	−80	−3	51	−65	222	159
1977	442	160	−84	−37	275	30	98	−18	196	264
1978	597	213	59	−70	401	−25	19	−13	434	176
1973										
1st qtr	384	6	60	53	162	11	91	218	190	−25
2nd	341	28	87	6	163	17	41	247	99	−6
3rd	337	68	95	12	94	26	42	192	161	−15
4th	274	50	9	−11	176	21	30	172	94	8
1974										
1st qtr	54	92	273	−152	−74	−29	−57	336	−138	−145
2nd	453	135	35	29	135	34	87	63	148	243
3rd	686	94	154	92	231	28	89	274	108	304
4th	94	−60	−58	39	168	−14	20	−15	−65	175
1975										
1st qtr	−258	−95	−107	93	−13	−30	−107	−292	−77	110
2nd	−230	−120	−49	16	24	−32	−69	−156	−45	−28
3rd	−476	−105	−89	−70	−95	−36	−81	−338	−90	−48
4th	−257	−39	−41	−17	−123	2	−38	−140	−60	−57
1976										
1st	−13	−14	12	−7	−7	22	−20	−89	42	34
2nd	−29	−12	26	48	−83	−14	7	−47	38	−20
3rd	99	−20	19	96	−24	−7	35	48	38	14
4th	260	61	41	99	33	−4	30	23	105	131
1977										
1st qtr	235	17	9	35	120	13	41	91	123	21
2nd	97	42	−47	−3	22	34	50	−38	−69	204
3rd	−6	76	−56	−25	9	−9	—	−23	−33	50
4th	116	25	11	−43	124	−8	7	−48	175	−11
1978										
1st qtr	38	54	37	−87	−7	5	38	−26	17	48
2nd	272	107	−22	−8	209	−13	−3	−15	128	158
3rd	175	31	−37	19	180	−16	−2	20	102	52
4th	112	21	80	8	19	− 1	−15	8	186	−82
1979										
1st qtr p	33							−16	−7	57

Table 3 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by wholesalers at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total wholesalers	General wholesale distributors	Dealers in coal, builders materials etc	Dealers in industrial materials and machinery
Level of stocks at end 1977	4 540	2 890	349	1 302
1967	31	17	1	14
1968	160	107	9	44
1969	131	81	3	47
1970	202	48	5	149
1971	218	181	−3	40
1972	173	147	29	−3
1973	432	433	4	−6
1974	361	213	15	133
1975	−249	−255	−26	32
1976	131	117	12	2
1977	266	158	−3	111
1978	6	3	13	−11
1973				
1st qtr	115	108	−16	23
2nd	74	80	15	−21
3rd	119	124	5	−9
4th	123	122	1	1
1974				
1st qtr	87	91	−6	3
2nd	156	101	13	43
3rd	62	9	—	53
4th	56	13	9	34
1975				
1st qtr	−84	−104	1	19
2nd	−107	−108	−12	13
3rd	−45	−24	−10	−11
4th	−13	−19	−5	11
1976				
1st qtr	43	43	19	−18
2nd	−10	45	−13	−41
3rd	81	26	9	47
4th	17	4	−3	15
1977				
1st qtr	82	55	8	20
2nd	179	45	14	121
3rd	−80	4	−44	−41
4th	85	54	20	11
1978				
1st qtr	81	63	−37	55
2nd	−62	−48	19	−33
3rd	45	18	−6	33
4th	−59	−31	38	−66
1979				
1st qtr p	76			

Table 4 Increase in the book value of manufacturers' and distributors' stocks

£ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1977	39 613	28 771	6 425	4 417
1967	278	180	47	51
1968	871	581	138	152
1969	1 013	766	134	113
1970	1 347	1 038	207	102
1971	868	471	264	133
1972	1 030	618	298	114
1973	3 699	2 425	793	481
1974	6 335	4 978	938	419
1975	3 054	2 259	348	447
1976	6 200	4 591	1 143	466
1977	5 094	3 578	898	618
1978	4 539	3 227	511	801
1973				
1st qtr	681	459	121	101
2nd	749	515	138	96
3rd	1 031	627	289	115
4th	1 237	824	244	169
1974				
1st qtr	1 771	1 469	243	59
2nd	1 834	1 388	264	182
3rd	1 532	1 221	239	72
4th	1 197	899	192	106
1975				
1st qtr	973	894	18	61
2nd	612	559	15	38
3rd	530	218	158	154
4th	940	588	158	194
1976				
1st qtr	1 124	877	192	55
2nd	1 219	1 014	214	−9
3rd	1 666	1 091	407	168
4th	2 191	1 610	329	252
1977				
1st qtr	2 104	1 527	281	296
2nd	1 334	936	273	125
3rd	696	408	222	66
4th	959	707	121	131
1978				
1st qtr	683	487	91	105
2nd	1 358	1 077	60	222
3rd	1 071	594	289	188
4th	1 427	1 070	71	286
1979				
1st qtr p	1 710	1 189	322	198

Table 5 Relationship of manufacturers' stocks to manufacturing production

Index numbers – fourth quarter 1974 = 100 Seasonally adjusted

Period (quarters)	Total stock levels (at 1975 prices)	Production (with 1975 net output weights)	Ratio of stocks to production: Total	Materials and fuel	Work in progress	Finished goods
1973						
1st qtr	89.0	102.1	87.1	82.9	92.3	86.8
2nd	90.7	103.4	87.7	84.8	92.5	85.6
3rd	92.4	104.3	88.6	86.3	93.9	84.6
4th	93.7	104.3	89.8	88.2	95.1	84.7
1974						
1st qtr	94.0	99.9	94.1	96.2	97.4	85.6
2nd	96.2	104.3	92.2	92.9	95.3	86.7
3rd	99.5	103.2	96.4	97.0	97.7	93.5
4th	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1975						
1st qtr	98.7	99.3	99.4	97.1	99.6	102.9
2nd	97.6	94.8	102.9	99.7	103.8	107.2
3rd	95.3	93.7	101.6	96.5	103.5	107.3
4th	94.0	94.4	99.6	94.0	101.9	105.4
1976						
1st qtr	94.0	94.7	99.2	92.6	102.2	105.8
2nd	93.8	97.2	96.5	89.7	100.1	102.7
3rd	94.3	97.2	97.0	90.3	100.6	102.9
4th	95.6	98.6	96.9	89.2	100.7	104.1
1977						
1st qtr	96.7	99.3	97.4	89.7	101.7	103.8
2nd	97.2	97.8	99.3	90.6	102.2	109.5
3rd	97.2	98.4	98.7	89.8	101.1	109.9
4th	97.7	97.3	100.4	90.2	104.8	111.0
1978						
1st qtr	97.9	97.7	100.2	89.6	104.7	111.5
2nd	99.3	99.9	99.3	87.4	104.2	112.2
3rd	100.1	100.5	99.5	87.1	104.9	112.5
4th	100.7	98.0	102.6	89.4	110.2	113.7
1979						
1st qtr p	100.8	96.5	104.4	90.6	111.8	116.7

A Wilkinson Sword craftsman runs a professional eye over a replica of the sword used by Sir Francis Drake. This prototype is the forerunner of an edition of 100 to commemorate the four-hundredth anniversary of Drake's circumnavigation of the world (1577-80).

Footwear industry: orders, deliveries and stocks in February

In the three months ended February 1979 deliveries in the footwear industry were estimated to be 4 per cent lower on a seasonally adjusted pairage basis than in the three months ended November 1978. Net new orders were 1 per cent higher than in the previous three months, while at the end of February orders-on-hand were 0.3 per cent higher than those in November 1978. The index of output in the three months ended February 1979 was 3 per cent lower than in the three months ended November 1978.

Index of output: orders on hand, new orders, deliveries and stocks of complete footwear

Monthly averages or monthly totals

	Index of output 1975 = 100	Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders			Deliveries			Stocks (end period)
		Million pairs	£m	Million pairs		£m	Million pairs		£m	Million pairs
1966		33.6					16.4			
1967		37.8		16.5			16.1			
1968		41.6		17.3			17.0			
1969		34.6		15.9			16.5			
1970		38.9		16.6			16.2			
1971		32.5	55.7	15.7			16.2		23.8	19.4
1972		29.5	59.6	15.2		24.8	15.4		24.5	18.5
1973	107	46.2	85.2	17.1		30.5	15.7		28.4	16.5
1974	105	44.3	79.5	14.3		30.9	14.4		31.3	18.0
1975	100	38.8	91.8	13.2		36.2	13.7		35.1	15.8
1976	99	46.8	132.9	13.7		42.8	13.1		39.4	14.4
1977	104	44.4	141.2	13.1		48.8	13.3		48.1	16.0
1978 p	103	47.5	169.8	13.3		56.6	13.3		54.2	18.5
	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual
1976 1st qtr	99	42.7	89.4	14.6	13.5	39.1	13.4	13.0	39.9	19.0
2nd	98	46.2	107.3	12.6	13.0	40.1	11.5	12.4	34.2	20.9
3rd	98	36.8	89.7	10.0	12.0	34.8	13.1	12.9	40.6	17.2
4th	100	46.8	132.9	17.6	16.2	57.3	14.3	13.8	42.9	14.4
1977 1st qtr	104	56.9	139.5	17.0	15.6	50.7	13.6	13.4	48.5	14.7
2nd	105	56.2	151.7	12.3	12.2	47.1	12.5	13.5	43.0	17.2
3rd	103	47.4	110.0	10.3	12.9	35.7	13.3	13.1	49.5	14.1
4th	105	44.4	141.2	12.7	12.5	61.7	13.7	13.4	51.3	16.0
1978 1st qtr	100	60.8	156.3	18.5	16.8	58.7	13.0	12.7	53.6	17.2
2nd	103	65.7	178.2	14.1	14.4	57.3	12.4	13.5	50.0	21.2
3rd	107	50.0	144.7	8.1	9.3	45.2	13.3	13.4	56.3	17.9
4th p	102	47.5	169.8	12.5	11.6	65.4	13.3	12.9	57.1	17.6
1976 January	103	39.0	88.4	13.4	13.9	34.2	13.2	14.0	37.6	
February	98	40.1	89.5	14.1	13.0	40.4	13.0	12.7	39.3	
March	95	42.7	89.4	16.5	12.7	42.6	13.9	12.4	42.7	
April	98	43.1	94.2	11.9	10.3	39.2	11.6	12.4	34.4	
May	101	47.8	108.1	15.8	14.5	46.9	11.1	12.3	32.9	
June	96	46.2	107.3	10.2	14.1	34.3	11.8	12.4	35.2	
July	96	40.7	90.6	6.3	11.1	20.3	11.8	12.5	36.9	
August	97	38.0	87.8	8.7	12.1	33.7	11.4	12.3	36.5	
September	100	36.8	89.7	15.0	12.9	50.3	16.2	13.8	48.4	
October	100	44.9	111.7	23.7	18.2	67.7	15.6	13.7	45.7	
November	99	45.8	125.9	15.6	14.0	59.1	14.6	13.1	44.8	
December	103	46.8	132.9	13.6	16.3	45.0	12.6	14.7	38.1	
1977 January	102	51.1	132.5	16.1	17.6	40.9	11.7	13.0	41.3	
February	104	53.5	135.5	16.2	14.9	52.1	13.8	13.5	49.0	
March	105	56.9	139.5	18.8	14.3	59.1	15.4	13.8	55.2	
April	101	59.1	151.0	14.0	12.8	51.3	11.7	13.2	39.7	
May	112	61.2	161.4	15.5	13.4	55.5	13.4	14.2	45.1	
June	104	56.2	151.7	7.3	10.4	34.6	12.4	13.1	44.3	
July	99	53.5	135.1	9.0	17.0	25.5	11.7	13.0	42.1	
August	106	47.0	123.4	6.4	8.6	36.4	12.9	13.4	48.0	
September	103	47.4	110.0	15.6	13.2	45.1	15.3	13.0	58.4	
October	105	44.3	127.9	12.1	9.3	74.1	15.2	13.3	56.2	
November	106	41.0	133.9	11.5	10.4	61.3	14.7	13.2	55.3	
December	104	44.4	141.2	14.6	17.9	49.8	11.3	13.7	42.5	
1978 January	99	54.5	140.2	22.2	23.0	47.8	12.1	12.8	48.7	
February	98	55.6	141.9	14.0	12.9	55.1	12.9	12.6	53.4	
March	101	60.8	156.3	19.2	14.6	73.2	14.1	12.6	58.7	
April	105	56.8	164.7	8.2	7.9	57.0	12.1	14.4	48.6	
May	100	67.0	185.5	22.1	18.3	69.8	12.0	12.1	49.0	
June	105	65.7	178.2	12.0	17.0	45.2	13.2	13.9	52.5	
July	106	55.5	151.8	1.7	3.2	23.7	11.9	13.4	50.1	
August	113	52.3	145.7	10.5	14.0	51.3	13.6	14.1	57.4	
September	101	50.0	144.7	12.2	10.7	60.5	14.5	12.8	61.5	
October p	107	47.8	153.4	12.9	9.4	75.1	15.1	12.6	66.5	
November p	104	49.7	173.5	16.7	15.4	80.1	14.8	13.3	60.0	
December p	103	47.5	169.8	7.9	10.0	41.0	10.1	12.9	44.7	
1979 January p	99	50.5	161.3	15.2	15.3	46.5	12.2	12.3	55.0	
February p	102	50.0	162.2	11.5	10.7	60.8	12.1	11.8	59.9	

[1] Based on early returns, seasonally adjusted deliveries in March are expected to be 13 million pairs (unadjusted deliveries 14 million pairs). p Provisional.

Detailed breakdown

A detailed breakdown of manufacturers' deliveries by type of footwear in pairage and value terms, together with figures of exports, imports, consumers' expenditure, prices and employment is published in the Business Monitor production series under the reference PQ 450.

The index of output is calculated from the value of total sales and work done by firms classified to the footwear industry (minimum list heading 450 of the standard industrial classification). In using the index numbers, it should be borne in mind that when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant price value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent years.

Data on pairage

The data on pairage and value relate to complete footwear only sold by manufacturers classified to MLH 450 and to other industries (eg rubber) in the SIC, employing 25 or more persons.

Inquiries: 01-212 6787.

Unemployment and vacancies: May

The number of unemployed persons in Great Britain on 10 May was 1 238 868 representing 5.2 per cent of the total number of employees. This total includes 36 201 school leavers under 18 not yet employed.

The seasonally adjusted series shows that the number of unemployed in Great Britain excluding the school leavers was 1 247 500 (5.3 per cent of all employees), a decrease of 20 500 since 5 April. In the last three months there has been a decrease on average of 19 400 a month.

Of the total unemployed in Great Britain, 160 000 had been unemployed for four weeks or less. It is estimated that about 955 000 were unemployed for more than four weeks, and were aged under 60.

The average number joining the unemployment register in the three months ending April was 355 000 per month compared with 361 000 in the three months ending January and 387 000 in the three months ending October 1978. The average numbers leaving the register in these three periods were 371 000, 363 000 and 395 000 per month respectively.

The average inflow of vacancies in the three months ending April was 227 000 per month compared with 219 000 in the three months ending January and 238 000 in the three months ending October 1978. The average

Unemployment (on 10 May 1979)

	Great Britain		United Kingdom	
	Number	Change since Apr	Number	Change since Apr
Unemployed, excluding school leavers	1 202 667	−53 217	1 260 375	−54 397
School leavers	36 201	+12 277	39 307	+13 484
Total unemployed	1 238 868	−40 940	1 299 682	−40 913
(Percentage of all employees)	(5.2)	(−0.2)	(5.4)	(−0.2)
Seasonally adjusted				
Unemployed, excluding school leavers	1 247 500	−20 500	1 306 700	−20 700
(Percentage of all employees)	(5.3)	(−0.1)	(5.4)	(−0.1)

outflows in the three periods were 220 000, 215 000 and 232 000 per month respectively.

Adult students

The unemployment figures exclude adult students aged 18 and over, who are registered for temporary employment during a vacation and who intend to return to full-time education when the new term begins. On 10 May, these numbered 288 in Great Britain and 362 in the UK.

Temporary stopped

The unemployment figures do not include temporarily stopped workers – that is, those who had a job on the day of the count but were temporarily suspended from work on that day and were registered in order to claim benefits. These numbered 7542 in Great Britain and 7769 in the UK – representing a decrease on 5 April of 1407 in Great Britain and a decrease of 2054 in the UK.

Short-time working

In the week ending 10 March, 39 000 operatives in manufacturing industries in Great Britain were on short-time working. Of these, 6000 were stood off for the whole week and 33 000 for part of the week. The figure compares with a total of 62 000 on short-time in the week ending 10 February. The short-time working figures include temporarily stopped workers.

Notified vacancies

The numbers of vacancies notified to employment offices in Great Britain remaining unfilled on 4 May was 266 358, an increase of 17 723 since 30 March. The number of vacancies notified to careers offices was 40 959, an increase of 6996 since 30 March.

The seasonally adjusted series shows that the number of vacancies notified to employment offices in Great Britain was 255 800, an increase of 12 000 since 30 March.

Notified vacancies [1] (unfilled on 4 May 1979)

Notified to employment offices	266 358	+17 723	267 916	+17 792
Notified to careers offices	40 959	+6 996	41 265	+7 016
Seasonally adjusted				
Notified to employment offices	255 800	+12 000	257 300	+12 000

[1] Vacancy figures are not a measure of total vacancies, but only of those notified to employment offices and careers offices.

Index of industrial production for March

Provisional estimates suggest that industrial output continued to recover in March from the depressed level caused by adverse weather conditions and transport disputes in January. The extent of the recovery is difficult to judge because estimates for the first quarter of 1979 are, for reasons explained below, less reliable than usual.

The provisional estimates show that the average level of the all industries index in the period January to March 1979 was some 1½ per cent below the level in the preceding three months as was the index for manufacturing industries. These comparisons are severely affected by the impact of industrial disputes in different sectors of the economy and of adverse weather.

The all-industries index in the lastest three months was about 1 per cent above its level in the same period a year ago; a similar comparison for manufacturing industries shows a fall of about 1 per cent.

Many of the series used in compiling the index of production, in particular for manufacturing industry, measure deliveries rather than production. Deliveries account for about 70 per cent of the index of production of manufacturing industry and may differ from production in a given month because of movements in stocks of finished goods and work in progress. Deliveries in January were more affected by the lorry drivers' dispute than production, suggesting that the index is likely to have understated the true level of output in January, while in February and March it is possible that output may likewise be overstated. Figures for industrial output adjusted for movements in stocks are available only quarterly and in arrears of the latest index data.

Provisional estimates for the first quarter of 1979 are less reliable than usual because of the difficulties of identifying at this stage, on the basis of the partial information which is currently available, the effects of disruptions to, and subsequent recovery in, industrial production over this period. For some parts of the index, March figures have been estimated from past data together with a detailed examination of the series for which earlier figures are available. For engineering and construction industries there were particularly difficult estimation problems. Actual figures for estimated series will be incorporated in a revised index when available.

The index includes a number of sectors of industry for which only quarterly data are available, representing 18 per cent of manufacturing activity and 69 per cent of other activity. For these sectors, the recorded index numbers may overstate production in the early part of the first quarter of 1979 but understate production in the remainder of the quarter.

Index of industrial production: summary

Average 1975 = 100

					Manufacturing industries									
	Total all industries	All industries other than construction	Mining and quarrying	Total manufacturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manufacture	Engineering and allied industries	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing	Construction	Gas, electricity and water
Order	II-XXI		II	III-XIX	III	IV-V	VI	VII-XII	XIII-XV	XVI-XIX	XX	XXI
Weights	1 000	810	41	697	77	86	47	298	67	142	182	80
1973	109.5	107.6	110.1	108.3	103.2	107.7	125.1	103.5	111.3	114.7	118.2	99.3
1974	105.1	105.0	89.9	106.5	102.5	110.6	114.6	104.6	103.6	109.6	105.8	99.2
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	102.0	102.7	125.8	101.4	102.7	111.3	106.9	97.0	100.9	103.9	98.6	102.9
1977	105.8	107.4	187.7	102.8	103.9	114.4	102.0	98.9	101.6	105.7	98.2	107.0
1978	109.8	110.8	232.8	103.6	105.8	115.0	100.7	99.4	101.1	108.3	105.3	110.1
1978 1st qtr	107.0	108.3	209.6	102.2	106.1	111.8	96.5	99.9	98.0	104.3	101.9	107.8
2nd	110.8	111.5	229.5	104.5	106.9	115.0	107.4	99.8	101.2	109.0	107.3	112.0
3rd	111.5	112.5	236.6	105.2	104.4	117.4	101.2	101.0	103.6	110.9	107.2	112.6
4th	109.8	110.8	255.5	102.6	105.8	115.9	97.6	96.8	101.7	109.2	105.0	108.0
1979 1st qtr	108.2	111.5	276.3	101.0	105.1	110.9	96.0	97.7	99.3	103.6	94	pe 117.3
1978 Jan	106.9	108.2	207	102.3	108	112	92	100	98	105		107
Feb	107.3	108.6	216	101.9	105	111	97	100	98	105	102	111
Mar	106.8	108.0	206	102.4	105	113	101	100	98	103		105
Apr	111.1	111.9	221	105.1	105	115	106	100	105	110		115
May	110.1	110.7	232	103.5	106	114	106	99	99	107	107	111
Jun	111.1	112.0	235	105.0	109	116	110	99	100	109		110
Jul	111.7	112.6	236	105.2	104	118	111	101	104	108		115
Aug	112.1	113.2	238	106.0	105	118	92	103	105	113	107	113
Sep	110.8	111.6	236	104.4	105	116	100	100	102	111		110
Oct	108.5	109.3	242	101.8	105	116	97	96	100	108		107
Nov	109.6	110.6	261	102.6	108	117	93	96	103	110	105	104
Dec	111.2	112.6	264	103.6	104	115	102	99	101	109		113
1979 Jan	102.6	104.7	278	93.0	102	95	77	91	95	95		117
Feb	110.4	114.3	282	103.8	105	119	102	100	100	106	94	117
Mar	111.5	115.6	268	106.2	108	118	109	102	103	110		118
Percentage change latest three months on:												
1. previous three months	−1.4	0.6	8.2	−1.6	−0.7	−4.4	−1.6	0.9	−2.3	−5.1		8.5
2. a year earlier	1.1	3.0	31.8	−1.2	−1.0	−0.8	−0.5	−2.2	1.3	−0.7		8.8

pe Preliminary estimate

Index of industrial production: detailed analysis

Average 1975 = 100

	Mining and quarrying		Food, drink and tobacco		Chemicals, coal and petroleum products		Metal manufacture		Engineering and allied industries				
									Engineering				
	Coal mining	Other mining and quarrying	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total engineering	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering
MLH	101	102-109	211-229	231-240	261-263	271-279	311-313	321-323	331-369	331-349	351-354	361-369	370
Weights	34	7	54	23	9	57	35	12	170	92	12	66	14
1973	103.3	141.6	106.0	96.3	120.6	105.8	127.8	116.9	98.4	97.2	92.4	101.3	95.4
1974	85.5	110.3	104.0	99.1	115.9	109.8	114.8	113.8	102.3	101.3	98.7	104.5	98.9
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	92.8	278.5	103.2	101.6	105.7	112.2	106.9	106.9	96.5	95.1	96.6	98.5	96.5
1977	90.1	638.7	105.1	101.2	102.7	116.2	99.8	108.7	97.3	93.2	98.7	102.7	93.3
1978	89.2	896.5	105.6	106.4	101.4	117.1	98.4	107.3	99.9	92.9	106.2	108.4	88.1
1978													
1st qtr	89.9	762.8	105.5	107.6	98.2	113.8	93.7	104.9	98.4	92.0	101.2	106.8	90.0
2nd	88.6	881.0	105.9	109.5	98.6	117.5	106.8	109.1	99.3	92.5	104.9	107.7	90.8
3rd	89.7	915.6	106.5	99.6	105.3	119.2	98.3	109.6	101.2	95.0	108.4	108.5	89.7
4th	88.6	1 026.8	104.5	108.8	103.6	117.8	94.9	105.7	100.6	92.3	110.1	110.5	81.9
1979													
1st qtr	89.9	1 138.0	103.5	108.8	100.2	112.5	94.3	101.1	97.7	88	108	109	86.8
1978													
Mar	91	741	105	107	102	114	99	109	99	92	102	108	90
Apr	90	828	103	111	98	117	103	112	99	92	104	107	88
May	87	902	107	106	99	116	106	107	99	92	105	108	90
Jun	89	912	108	112	99	119	111	108	100	93	106	108	94
Jul	90	912	106	98	107	120	112	111	101	95	107	108	91
Aug	89	925	107	100	106	120	85	113	101	95	108	108	92
Sep	90	911	106	101	103	118	99	105	102	95	110	109	86
Oct	88	953	103	110	105	117	95	103	100	93	109	109	85
Nov	90	1 051	106	112	101	119	90	102	101	92	110	110	87
Dec	88	1 077	104	104	104	117	99	112	101	92	112	112	74
1979													
Jan	88	1 157	101	105	99	95	72	92	91	83	100	102	89
Feb	88	1 180	104	110	105	121	99	108	99	90	108	111	90
Mar	93	1 077	106	112	97	122	112	103	102	91	116	115	82
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months	1.4	10.8	−0.9	0.0	−3.3	−4.5	−0.6	−4.4	−2.9	−4.5			5.9
2. a year earlier	0.0	49.2	−1.9	1.1	2.0	−1.2	0.6	−3.6	−0.7	−4.2			−3.6

	Engineering and allied industries (continued)				Textiles, leather and clothing			Other manufacturing					
	Total vehicles	Motor vehicles	Other vehicles	Metal goods not elsewhere specified	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total bricks, pottery, glass, etc	Bricks, cement, etc	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries
MLH	380-385	381	380, 382-385	390-399	411-429	431-433	441-450	461-469	461, 464-469	462,463	471-479	481-489	491-499
Weights	68	43	25	46	40	3	24	28	17	11	25	58	31
1973	113.3	118.8	103.5	110.1	117.1	107.1	102.1	113.7	120.7	103.5	118.9	115.7	110.2
1974	108.9	110.8	105.6	108.7	105.9	98.7	100.2	107.2	109.1	104.4	102.1	115.5	106.8
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	97.0	100.2	91.3	98.8	103.0	102.3	97.1	101.0	99.1	103.8	103.9	102.5	109.0
1977	100.9	107.2	89.6	104.0	100.9	97.1	103.2	99.7	93.7	108.5	97.6	106.9	115.4
1978	98.6	103.7	89.4	102.2	99.3	96.7	104.8	101.1	93.7	111.9	102.5	109.2	118.2
1978													
1st qtr	104.2	112.8	89.0	102.1	97.0	90.7	100.7	96.6	89.8	106.4	97.8	105.6	114.4
2nd	101.6	108.1	90.0	101.7	100.1	98.9	103.5	102.1	94.1	113.7	103.5	109.0	119.7
3rd	100.5	106.8	89.2	104.7	101.3	99.8	108.0	103.0	93.1	117.4	104.3	111.9	121.5
4th	88.0	87.2	89.6	100.5	98.9	97.5	106.9	102.7	97.7	109.9	104.6	110.1	117.3
1979													
1st qtr	100.1	106.4	88.9	97.6	95.5	97.4	106.0	94.2	88.1	103.1	100.2	102.6	117.0
1978													
Mar	104	113	89	102	96	91	102	95	90	103	99	106	109
Apr	104	111	90	105	104	99	106	105	95	119	106	109	121
May	103	110	90	98	98	99	101	100	93	109	101	108	117
Jun	99	104	90	102	98	99	103	102	94	112	103	110	121
Jul	100	106	89	104	100	100	112	101	92	114	102	109	117
Aug	105	114	89	108	104	100	107	104	93	119	105	114	127
Sep	97	101	89	102	100	100	105	104	95	119	105	113	120
Oct	86	84	89	98	99	97	103	102	97	109	102	108	117
Nov	81	76	90	102	100	97	111	103	98	109	104	113	118
Dec	97	101	90	101	98	97	107	104	98	111	107	110	117
1979													
Jan	93	95	89	89	91	97	101	85	86	82	93	94	109
Feb	103	112	89	102	97	97	106	98	88	113	101	105	117
Mar	104	113	90	102	98	97	111	100	90	114	107	108	125
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months	13.7	22.1	−0.7	−2.9	−3.5	−0.1	−0.8	−8.3	−9.9	−6.2	−4.2	−6.8	−0.3
2. a year earlier	−4.0	−5.7	−0.1	−4.4	−1.5	7.4	5.3	−2.5	−2.0	−3.1	2.4	−2.8	2.2

The index numbers are all seasonally adjusted, to remove annually recurring month-to-month variations due, for example, the incidence of holidays and other regular seasonal patterns of behaviour. The adjustments can only be derived from analysis of past data and may not be completely appropriate when holiday patterns change sharply.

For the construction industry, the Department of the Environment provides preliminary estimates for the latest quarter which are based, in advance of receipt of regular returns from the industry, on broad indicators of activity. These preliminary estimates are liable to substantial revision.

Inquiries: 01-233 7239.

Patents recorded 'licences of right'

Under section 46 of the Patents Act 1977 the register was noted 'licences of right' in respect of the following patents on the date specified:

11 May 1979

1243618 International Standard Electric Corporation
PCM switching system

1348530 International Standard Electric Corporation
Serial parallel conversion

1396629 International Standard Electric Corporation
Call load sharing system between several data processing units

1438895 International Standard Electric Corporation
Voltage multiplier arrangement

1471935 International Standard Electric Corporation
Digital operation of control circuits for remote control of electronic apparatus

1481655 International Standard Electric Corporation
Voltage multiplier assembly

1483677 International Standard Electric Corporation
On-hook and off-hook detector for telephone switching systems

1486868 International Standard Electric Corporation
Conference circuit

1505517 International Standard Electric Corporation
Self-defence arrangement in switching system

1367436 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Flexible lead substrate

1376314 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Improvements in or relating to electrical equipment practice

1483153 Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Improvements in or relating to telecommunication systems

1367453 Haldor Frederik Axel Topsoe
Improvements in furnace design

1373211 Haldor Frederik Axel Topsoe
Improvements in the manufacture of alcohols

1094936 Ernst Leitz Wetzlar GmbH
Methods of testing scales and arrangements for performing such methods

1297573 Compagnie Generale de Radiologie
Radiological examination apparatus

1395832 American Plasticraft Company
Improved electron tube socket

1430312 ITT Creed Ltd
A print hammer actuating apparatus for a serial printing machine

1430794 The Republic of France
Improvements in or relating to non-skid coatings

1441729 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Improvements in and relating to cameras

1456185 Chinoin Gyogyszer es Vegyeszeti Termekek Gyara RT
Process and composition for the protection of animal products

1474823 ITT Industries Inc
Integrated circuit for switching on/off an AC load

1505866 Robert Starrs Dougherty
Improvements in or relating to a floor structure for a cargo container

1514712 Holt Products Ltd
Air fresheners

1535072 Worthington-Simpson Ltd
Improvements relating to rotary machines and particularly impeller pumps

Any person who claims that the proprietor of the patent is, and was at the time of entry, precluded by a contract in which the claimant is interested from granting licences under the patent may, within three months after the making of the relevant entry, apply to the Comptroller on patents form 31/77 for cancellation of the entry.

I. J. C. Davis, Comptroller

Combined engineering sectors: sales and orders up to February

The seasonally adjusted indices of sales and orders show a marked recovery in February from the very low levels of the previous month caused by industrial disruption and severe weather conditions. Although the problems of January continued into the following month the evidence suggests that deliveries progressed at an enhanced rate at the end of February, and it is possible that this trend may have continued into March.

Because of the disruption in January the trend estimates over recent months do not at present give a reliable basis for assessment of the underlying movements in the sector; hence in this article reference is only made to the seasonally adjusted series.

On this basis the February index of total sales recovered from a very low January figure to reach a level about the same as the average over the last half of 1978. New orders also increased sharply to a respectable level but still very much lower than the exceptional inflows of the fourth quarter. Orders-on-hand have remained stable despite the reverses of fortune experienced by sales and orders in the last three months.

In the home market sales dipped sharply in January but recovered in February to about the level of the previous two quarters. The recovery of new orders from the January low was more feeble than expected considering the high level of new orders in the latter half of 1978, and orders on hand fell back slightly. This may reflect postponement of orders due to the effects of delayed deliveries.

The export market performed more buoyantly than the home with sales in February outstripping the level of the fourth quarter. In contrast to the home market there was an excellent recovery in the intake of new export orders leading to a small increase in orders-on-hand.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the monthly engineering inquiry relating to February 1979. The response rate of 77 per cent to the inquiry for February 1979 is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for November, December and January response rates for these months were 92, 91 and 87 per cent respectively.

An expanded commentary, together with additional tables, is given in Business Monitor PM 33–36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £5.40 per annum.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Room 607, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 5770.

Volume index numbers for the combined engineering industries up to February

	Total			Home			Export		
	1975 average = 100	1975 average monthly sales = 100		1975 average = 100	1975 average monthly sales = 100		1975 average = 100	1975 average monthly sales = 100	
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales
Ratio orders-on-hand/ av monthly sales in 1975 [1]	7.7			7.3			8.5		
Trend estimates									
1976									
September	80	99	97	76	90	95	89	119	100
October	81	100	97	76	91	95	91	120	102
November	81	100	98	75	92	96	93	118	103
December	81	100	98	75	93	96	94	115	103
1977 p									
January	82	99	98	74	93	95	95	113	103
February	82	99	97	74	93	95	97	112	102
March	82	98	97	74	92	94	98	112	103
April	82	98	97	74	92	94	99	112	103
May	82	98	97	73	91	93	99	112	105
June	82	97	97	73	91	92	100	111	107
July	82	97	97	73	92	92	100	109	108
August	82	97	97	73	92	92	100	107	108
September	82	97	96	74	93	91	100	105	107
October	83	98	96	74	94	92	100	106	106
November	83	99	96	74	95	92	100	107	105
December	83	99	96	75	96	93	100	108	105
1978 p									
January	84	100	97	75	96	94	101	108	105
February	84	99	98	75	96	95	101	108	105
March	84	98	98	75	95	95	101	105	106
April	84	97	99	75	95	96	100	102	106
May	83	97	99	75	95	96	100	100	106
June	83	97	99	75	95	96	99	100	105
July	83	99	99	75	98	97	99	102	106
August	83	103	100	76	101	97	98	105	106
September	84	106	100	77	106	97	99	108	105
October	86	109	99	78	108	97	100	109	104
November	87	109	98	80	109	96	100	109	103
December	88	108	97	82	107	95	101	109	102
1979 p									
January	90	105	96	84	104	94	102	108	100
February	91	102	95	85	100	93	102	107	99
Percentage change [2] Nov 1978-Feb 1979	+4.0	−6.0	−3.0	+5.5	−8.0	−2.5	+2.0	−2.5	−3.5
Seasonally adjusted									
1973	113	116	99	120	121	105	100	105	84
1974	114	103	102	115	102	104	112	106	97
1975	88	84	100	87	83	100	90	84	100
1976	81	92	97	74	87	95	94	104	101
1977 p	84	98	97	75	94	93	100	109	105
1978 p	90	103	99	84	101	96	101	107	106
1976									
1st qtr	84	85	96	83	83	93	86	90	100
2nd	80	87	97	79	86	96	82	89	101
3rd	80	97	96	77	90	95	87	114	99
4th	81	100	97	74	90	94	94	123	103
1977 p									
1st qtr	82	99	97	74	95	96	97	109	102
2nd	82	98	97	73	90	93	101	117	106
3rd	82	96	97	73	93	92	100	105	109
4th	84	99	96	75	97	92	100	105	104
1978 p									
1st qtr	84	99	99	75	95	95	101	110	107
2nd	83	96	98	75	94	95	99	99	104
3rd	84	103	100	75	100	98	100	109	105
4th	90	114	99	84	116	96	101	109	106
1977 p									
January	81	103	101	74	98	99	95	116	105
February	82	100	98	75	99	96	96	103	102
March	82	94	94	74	88	92	97	109	98
April	82	101	98	74	92	94	99	121	106
May	83	98	95	74	90	91	100	117	103
June	82	96	98	73	89	94	101	113	108
July	82	94	99	73	95	94	99	91	109
August	83	103	95	74	96	90	100	117	107
September	82	93	97	73	86	91	100	108	110
October	83	100	97	74	95	93	100	110	107
November	83	95	93	74	95	89	99	93	102
December	84	104	97	75	101	95	100	110	102
1978 p									
January	83	94	96	75	92	92	99	99	105
February	85	109	98	75	96	95	103	140	106
March	84	94	103	75	96	99	101	90	111
April	83	93	96	75	92	93	100	96	102
May	84	101	99	75	99	96	100	106	106
June	83	93	99	75	91	96	99	96	105
July	83	100	98	76	102	95	98	96	103
August	83	100	101	76	99	96	97	103	111
September	84	108	103	75	99	103	100	129	102
October	84	98	97	76	98	94	100	99	103
November	88	128	98	82	137	95	100	109	106
December	90	115	103	84	114	100	101	118	109
1979 p									
January	90	89	85	84	88	86	102	92	84
February	90	99	100	83	92	97	103	115	108
Sept-Nov 1978 (av)	88	112	99	82	111	97	100	112	104
Dec 1978-Feb 1979 (av)	90	101	96	83	98	94	103	108	100
Percentage change [2]	+2.0	−9.5	−3.0	+1.5	−12.0	−3.0	+2.5	−3.5	−3.5

Notes to table

[1] This ratio shows the number of months work in the order book in the base year at the then average rate of sales. [2] For orders-on-hand the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point. p Provisional.

Motor vehicle production in April

Cars

April production of 96 923 units was 19 per cent below that in April 1978.

Recorded production in the first four months of 1979 was 12 per cent below that in the corresponding period of last year. Production for export fell by 22 per cent while that for the home market fell by 4 per cent.

Seasonally adjusted production of 101 000 units was marginally below the monthly average during 1978.

Commercial vehicles

April production of 36 241 units was 4 per cent above that in April 1978.

In the four months to April 1979, recorded commercial vehicle production was 13 per cent above that in the same period of last year. Production for export rose by 1 per cent while that for the home market rose by 23 per cent.

Seasonally adjusted production of 39 600 units was 23 per cent above the 1978 average.

Inquiries: 01-212 0788.

Table 1 Car and commercial vehicle production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and unassembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery-operated road vehicles are excluded.

	No of weeks	Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
		For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1969	53	892 758	824 315	1 717 073	32 398	272 998	192 778	465 776	8 788
1970	52	918 109	722 857	1 640 966	31 557	267 407	190 125	457 532	8 799
1971	52	1 027 462	714 478	1 741 940	33 499	268 278	187 928	456 206	8 773
1972	52	1 307 881	613 430	1 921 311	36 948	272 649	135 470	408 119	7 848
1973	52	1 142 216	605 105	1 747 321	33 602	257 574	159 049	416 623	8 012
1974	52	937 932	596 187	1 534 119	29 502	232 373	170 193	402 566	7 742
1975	52	735 532	532 164	1 267 696	24 379	194 319	186 386	380 705	7 321
1976	53	768 481	564 968	1 333 449	25 159	182 554	189 503	372 057	7 020
1977	52	753 195	562 777	1 315 972	25 307	201 445	196 823	398 268	7 659
1978	52	728 370	494 579	1 222 949	23 518	215 550	168 968	384 518	7 395
1979	52								
1978									
January	4	67 488	43 961	111 449	27 862	16 396	14 717	31 113	7 778
February	4	65 029	42 883	107 912	26 978	15 699	14 959	30 658	7 665
March	5	78 044	61 086	139 130	27 826	22 854	19 057	41 911	8 382
April	4	68 388	50 721	119 109	29 777	18 802	16 169	34 971	8 743
May	4	76 240	45 363	121 603	30 401	20 824	16 990	37 814	9 454
June	5	79 262	42 848	122 110	24 422	22 318	17 163	39 481	7 896
July	4	40 644	24 273	64 917	16 229	15 209	12 032	27 241	6 810
August	4	51 205	37 669	88 874	22 219	12 160	9 057	21 217	5 304
September	5	68 540	38 950	107 490	21 498	20 243	13 531	33 774	6 755
October	4	42 418	36 836	79 254	19 814	15 967	10 331	26 298	6 575
November	4	29 216	28 305	57 521	14 380	13 548	10 757	24 305	6 076
December	5	61 896	41 684	103 580	20 716	21 530	14 205	35 735	7 147
1979									
January	4	58 744	33 533	92 277	23 069	20 636	11 401	32 037	8 009
February	4	61 233	38 560	99 793	24 948	21 909	15 565	37 474	9 369
March	5	86 511	46 801	133 312	26 662	29 040	21 341	50 381	10 076
April	4	61,207	35,716	96,923	24,231	18,921	17,320	36,241	9,060
Cumulative:									
Jan-Apr 78		278 949	198 651	477 600	28 094	73 751	64 902	138 653	8 156
Jan-Apr 79		267 695	154 610	422 305	24 841	90 506	65 627	156 133	9 184
Percentage change		−4	−22	−12		+23	+1	+13	

Note: From January 1978, Land-Rover estate vehicles were recorded as commercial vehicles rather than as passenger cars. Figures for 1977 were revised on to this basis. The number of these vehicles in 1977 was 11 848.

Table 2 Production seasonally adjusted

Monthly average — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	15.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	51	146	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974	78	50	128	19.4	14.2	33.6
1975	61	45	106	16.2	15.5	31.7
1976	64	47	111	15.2	15.8	31.0
1977	63	47	110	16.8	16.4	33.2
1978	61	41	102	18.0	14.1	32.1
1979						
1978						
January	66	45	111	17.6	15.8	33.4
February	69	43	112	15.7	15.0	30.7
March	69	52	121	19.2	16.2	35.4
April	69	48	117	19.7	16.3	36.0
May	64	40	104	19.7	14.9	34.6
June	70	38	108	19.9	14.4	34.3
July	59	37	96	19.2	14.3	33.5
August	65	50	115	17.3	14.0	31.3
September	68	39	107	18.9	13.2	32.1
October	46	37	83	15.4	10.8	26.2
November	28	27	55	12.8	11.6	24.4
December	57	38	95	20.2	12.3	32.5
1979						
January	58	35	93	22.2	12.3	34.5
February	65	39	104	22.1	15.6	37.7
March	72	38	110	23.1	17.2	40.3
April	65	36	101	21.1	18.5	39.6

Notes to table 2: The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influences (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

Re-surfacing with Trinidad Lake asphalt on the A9 trunk road through Scotland, known as the the 'Road to the Oils.'

Turnover of the motor trades in the first quarter

Turnover of the motor trades in the first quarter of 1979 was 15 per cent higher than in the first quarter of 1978. On the same comparison, new vehicle sales increased by 17 per cent, used vehicle sales increased by 11 per cent and other sales and receipts (which include sales of petrol and oil, tyres, spares and accessories and receipts from servicing and repairs) rose by 13 per cent.

The statistics are of turnover at current prices. Movements therefore include the effect of price changes, including changes in purchase tax before the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT and car tax from the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT on petrol from the second quarter of 1974, and subsequent changes in the rates of VAT. The turnover includes transactions between dealers in addition to final sales. Vehicles include commercial vehicles as well as private cars and motor cycles.

The estimates for the fourth quarter 1978 have been revised to take account of additional information from late returns.

The figures are not seasonally adjusted.

The returns made by a voluntary panel are used to project the figures of turnover in a base year (1972) obtained in a comprehensive inquiry to motor traders.

Inquiries: 01-215 3177.

Turnover of the motor trades: index numbers

Index numbers of turnover per quarter at current prices (including purchase tax or VAT and car tax)

Percentage changes compared with a year earlier in brackets — 1972 = 100

	Total turnover	New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Other sales
Turnover in 1972 (£ million)	(8 109)	(3 089)	(1 373)	(3 647)
1972	100	100	100	100
1973	111 (+11)	110 (+10)	102 (+2)	115 (+15)
1974	119 (+7)	106 (−3)	100 (−2)	137 ((+19)
1975	143 (+20)	123 (+16)	128 (+28)	166 (+21)
1976	174 (+22)	159 (+29)	158 (+24)	192 (+16)
1977	212 (+22)	202 (+27)	195 (+23)	228 (+18)
1978 (revised)	263 (+24)	279 (+38)	246 (+26)	256 (+12)
1972				
1st qtr	95	94	100	93
2nd	105	109	107	101
3rd	102	101	103	104
4th	98	96	90	102
1973				
1st qtr	117 (+23)	126 (+34)	119 (+18)	109 (+17)
2nd	110 (+5)	110 (+1)	103 (−3)	113 (+12)
3rd	114 (+12)	111 (+10)	108 (+5)	119 (+15)
4th	102 (+4)	93 (−3)	80 (−12)	118 (+16)
1974				
1st qtr	108 (−8)	102 (−20)	87 (−27)	120 (+10)
2nd	122 (+11)	112 (+2)	106 (+3)	136 (+20)
3rd	126 (+11)	110 (−1)	111 (+3)	146 (+22)
4th	121 (+18)	102 (+10)	95 (+20)	147 (+24)
1975				
1st qtr	137 (+27)	127 (+25)	116 (+33)	152 (+27)
2nd	148 (+21)	129 (+15)	136 (+27)	168 (+23)
3rd	152 (+21)	131 (+19)	143 (+29)	174 (+19)
4th	135 (+12)	105 (+3)	117 (+23)	168 (+15)
1976				
1st qtr	166 (+22)	161 (+27)	153 (+32)	175 (+15)
2nd	176 (+19)	162 (+25)	170 (+26)	189 (+12)
3rd	178 (+17)	159 (+22)	167 (+17)	199 (+15)
4th	176 (+30)	155 (+48)	143 (+22)	205 (+22)
1977				
1st qtr	203 (+22)	199 (+23)	189 (+24)	211 (+21)
2nd	210 (+20)	197 (+22)	196 (+15)	226 (+19)
3rd	230 (+29)	220 (+39)	215 (+29)	243 (+22)
4th	207 (+18)	191 (+23)	179 (+25)	230 (+12)
1978				
1st qtr	257 (+27)	289 (+45)	233 (+23)	240 (+14)
2nd	268 (+28)	283 (+43)	264 (+34)	258 (+14)
3rd	277 (+21)	295 (+34)	271 (+26)	264 (+8)
4th (revised)	250 (+21)	250 (+31)	219 (+22)	262 (+14)
1979				
1st qtr	295 (+15)	339 (+17)	258 (+11)	272 (+13)

New companies registered in Northern Ireland in April

The number of companies registered in N. Ireland in April and nominal capital are as follows:

	Apr 1979	Jan to Apr 1979	Apr 1978
Public companies limited by shares	—	1	—
Private companies limited by shares	68	267	60
Private unlimited companies	1	2	—
Public companies limited by guarantee not having a share capital	—	—	1
Private companies limited by guarantee not having a share capital	—	—	—
Private companies limited by guarantee having a share capital	—	1	—
Total nominal capital of companies incorporated	£5 293 618	£16 784 890·45	£2 535 200

Amendments to information previously supplied

January 1979
39 private companies limited by shares
Total nominal capital of companies incorporated £3,327,206

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday 25 May 1979.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
BRITISH					
Mr Selkie	BR/E 40040/26/5/84	52	24 May	Children's Film Foundation Ltd	Wadlow Grosvenor Productions Ltd
Movietone News 2607	BR/E 39848/26/5/84	8	25 May	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
FOREIGN					
The Humanoid	F 40039	99	23 May	Columbia-EMI-Warner Distributors Ltd	Merope Film SRL. Rome
Almost Human	F 40041	84	24 May	Oppidan Entertainments Ltd	Lawrence Friedricks Enterprises Inc, New York
Smurfs and The Magic Flute	F 40042	74	24 May	Target International Pictures Ltd	Dupuis-Belvision Studios Brussels
Escape to Athena	F 40043	117	25 May	ITC Film Distributors Ltd	Pimlico Films Ltd London

AMENDMENT TO THE REGISTER
The playing time of the film 'Flood' (F 39046) Registered on 10 March 1977 has been amended to 83 minutes.

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308	318	328	338	348	358	368	378	388	398	408	418	428	438	448	458	468	478	488	498
309	319	329	339	349	359	369	379	389	399	409	419	429	439	449	459	469	479	489	499
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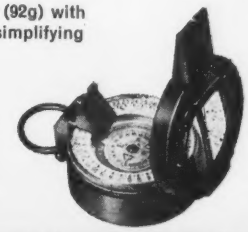

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